



Economic Development Committee

August 11, 2026

The South Burlington Economic Development Committee held a regular meeting at 5:30 PM in Room 301 of the South Burlington City Hall, 180 Market Street, South Burlington and by remote participation.

Members present: Nicole LaBrecque (Chair), Chris Carrigan (Vice Chair), Harold Hershberg, Paige Brochu, John Burton and Brad Krompf.

Members absent: Emma Shouldice-Boardman, Rebecca Killian

Also present: Ilona Blanchard, South Burlington Community Development Director (Committee Staff).

1. The meeting was called to order by Nicole LaBrecque, Chair, at 5:30 p.m. Emergency exit procedures were reviewed. The agenda was approved (moved by John Burton, seconded by Chris Carrigan) unanimously.
2. Comments from the Public. No members of the public were present; no public comment was offered.
3. Updates:
 - Chair (Nicole LaBrecque):
 - Significant activity at Beta Technologies, including an infusion of funding for parts, marketing, and exports that is moving permit work forward; the master plan is expected before the board for approval soon.
 - PC Construction is seeking a new site in South Burlington for future expansion and housing development.
 - Staff (Ilona Blanchard): Reported on several items:
 - Economic Development Executive Director search: ~12 applicants received; 6–7 to be interviewed, followed by second-round of interviews.
 - Cymone (Upward Mobility / Economic Development): a morning session on “10 legal things every small business owner should know” is being marketed to small businesses and entrepreneurs.
 - South Burlington City Center Collaborative (SBCCC): August 27th, 5:30–7:00 PM at Comfort Suites; the owner of Leunig’s will speak.
 - Market Street business openings: Align Workout — the corridor is expanding from food into retail. Chris brought up VT Flannel, a recent lead he had provided.

- San Remo Area-Wide Plan: the City is working with property owners in partnership with CCRPC on brownfield assessment in preparation for funding, restoration, and remediation to prepare sites for redevelopment (Part 1). Part 2 will work directly with owners on a shared vision for the area.
- Redevelopment of City Center and surrounding neighborhoods remains a top city priority.
- Pedestrian Bridge construction is underway; a weekly email blast will support future closure notices. Groundbreaking was well received; projected completion in 2028.
- UVM students (undergraduates) move into Market Street apartments the weekend of August 22nd. Graduates and employees already occupy three buildings.
- A peddlers'-ordinance concept for food-truck permitting around City Center remains on pause due to staffing changes.
- South Burlington did not receive Plan of the Year but was recognized with kudos.
- Member Committee Activities: Members shared updates:
 - Chris:
 - Kirk D. at UVM has been appointed by Gov. Scott to the AI Economic Taskforce.
 - The Gallium Nitride Tech Hub had an open house for their lab located at OnLogic.
 - Paige:
 - Met with Hello Burlington, a privately funded regional tourism marketing entity. Tourism generated \$4.2B statewide in 2024 (\$1.03B in Chittenden County); South Burlington leads in hotel rooms and rental cars. Potential partnership opportunities around hospitality, lodging, and mobility data are being explored.
 - SB3C is moving into development of its strategic plan.
- Council: No council present.

4. Officer Elections

Officers were elected unanimously (moved by John Burton, seconded by Paige Brochu) as follows: Nicole LaBrecque — Chair and Chris Carrigan — Vice Chair. The Clerk position was tabled for September meeting.

5. Green Community Festival — September 19, 2026

The Committee discussed the festival, a day-long event centered on energy and green companies with children's activities and informational booths (formerly the Energy Festival, now in its third or fourth year). <https://www.southburlingtonvt.gov/701/Green-Community-Festival>

Action item: Reach out to “green” companies — including technology, farm-to-plate, and sustainable-process businesses — to invite participation. The event is not seeking significant funding. Members will consult the South Burlington website and email Bettina to coordinate.

6. Economic Development Strategic Plan

Work Session (telling the story to the community): Broader strategic-plan work is being held pending the new Executive Director.

Innovation District & Aviation Sector: Collins Aerospace was acquired by Simmons, part of broader aviation-sector changes. Workforce development continues, with Burlington Technical Center training the next generation of technicians through apprenticeships.

Hospitality/Destination: No updates.

Permit Expediting/Concierge Permitting: No updates.

7. Annual Report FY2026

Nicole LaBrecque has been drafting the FY26 annual report and will have a draft ready for the September meeting.

A committee photo will be taken at the September meeting.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30PM (moved by Harold Hershberg, seconded by John Burton).

Respectfully submitted by

Paige Brochu, Minute Taker