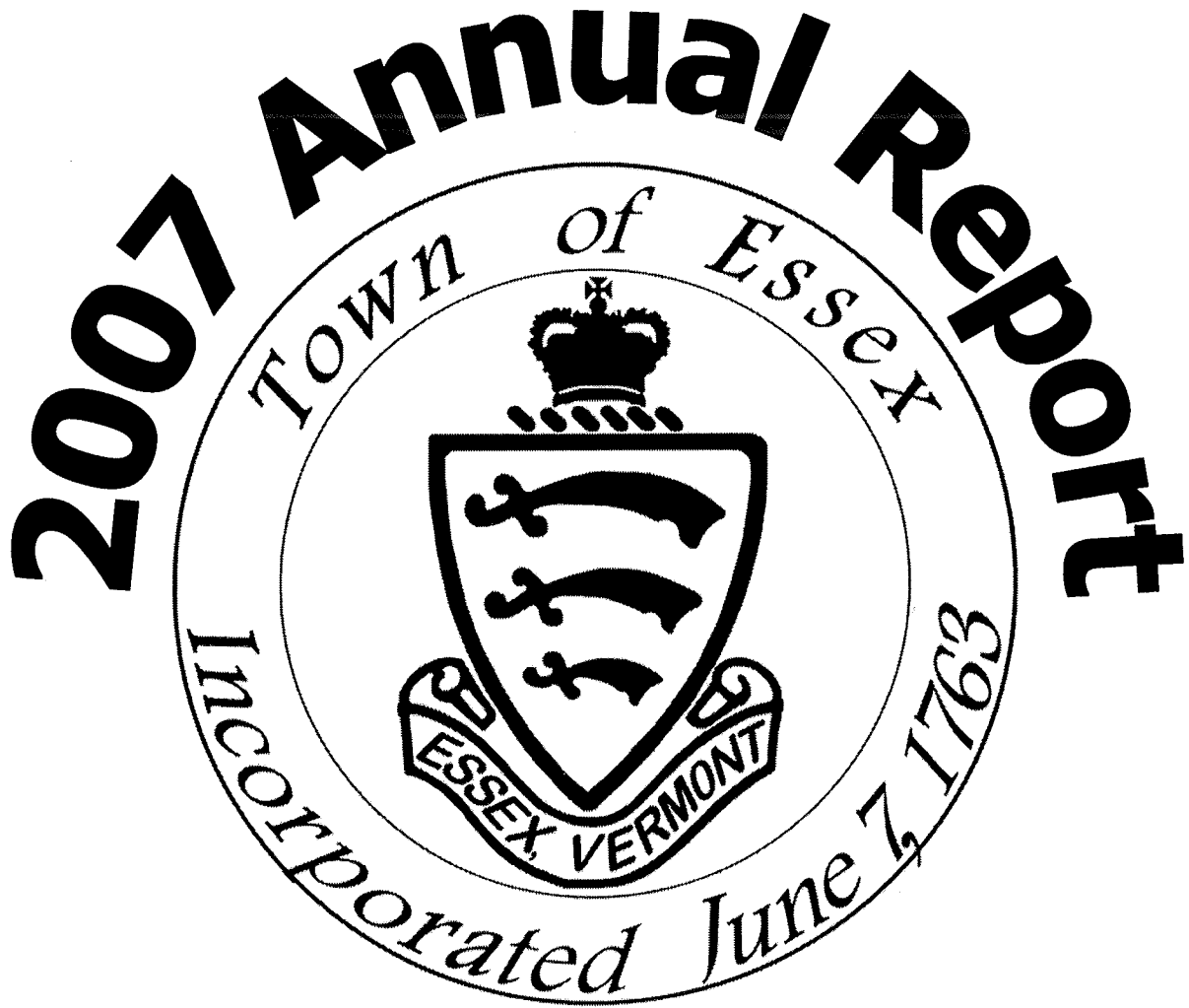


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Greg Morgan, Chair

During the past year there was a slew of economic development activity within the Town. Highlights of the past year are:

- The Economic Development Commission met with a representative of the Westford-Underhill-Jericho Fiber-Optic project to learn about how the three Towns are working to bring cable and high-speed Internet services to their communities. The Commission will keep abreast of the project in case there is an opportunity for the Town to become involved in bringing a similar service to the residents of Essex.
- The Town applied for and was awarded a Community Development Block Grant for \$490,000, funds that will be loaned to the Cathedral Square Corporation. The funds will be used to construct 48 affordable senior housing units in the Town Center area. This project will help to fulfill the Town Center vision while providing housing units that are in high demand.
- Green Mountain Coffee Roasters opened a new facility in Essex off from Kellogg Road for the manufacturing and distribution of their single-serve coffee-brewing line.
- Autumn Harp, a personal care product company based in Bristol VT, will be opening a facility in Essex's Forestdale Technology Park.
- The Inn at Essex will be adding a fishing pond, spa, and rock climbing and outdoor ropes course facility.
- A plan for a Lowe's Home Center, to be located in the former Ames shopping center off Susie Wilson Road, received Town approval and is awaiting Act 250 approval.
- The Economic Development Commission provided the Planning Commission with comments on updates to the Town zoning bylaws with particular attention paid to the Town Center area.
- The Circumferential Highway Environmental Impact Statement process continued, with the release of a draft statement in August. A Final Environmental Impact Statement identifying a project for construction is due in late 2008.

The Commission extends its sincere appreciation to Sheri Larsen, who was a member of the commission for 20 years, for all of her hard work and dedication to the Town of Essex over the years! We also wish to thank Assistant Town Manager Todd Odit for his support, patience and guidance.



Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007