

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee

February 7, 2013

Minutes

Present: Adam Grinold, Ken Black, Ryan Holton, Gretchen Havreluk, Scott Murphy, Laura Sibiliala, Tom Consolino, Randy Terk, Nona Monis, Jim Barnes, Tom Consolino, Dawn Baxter

Meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Adam Grinold, Chair

Laura Sibiliala from the BDCC gave an update on the status of current grants

CEDS: Hired "Vital Economy Consultants" First kickoff meeting is 2/15/13 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Brattleboro Retreat. They will be reviewing the current state of the economy in the region. In the spring there will be a series of meetings designed to delve deeper. The report is expected to be complete and ready for public comment by September 2013.

CDBG-DR: Received \$1,000,000 in grant monies to assist small businesses to continue to recover from Irene. A number of applications have been received and they will go to the Selection Committee next week.

EDA Flood Recovery Grant: In the process of hiring three positions which are expected to be filled within the next two weeks. One will be located in Wilmington and will serve Windham and Bennington counties. There is a \$103,000 budget to hire either a single person (approx. 16 months) or an agency (5-6 months) this will be a full-time position whose goal would be to develop a sustainable marketing brand/identity. The USDA grant is specific to the Valley.

Trails Update: Ken Black discussed a map with potential trails. The Crosstown Trail from Handle to Country Club Road was discussed. Murphy suggested that there needs to be a clear definition and what steps should be followed. Jim Barnes from the Hermitage suggested that the Hermitage is very much in favor of the Trail system and willing to help in any way possible.

Welcome Packets: Scott and Meg to clarify and determine whether to pursue or not.

USDA Grant: The Wilmington Selectboard voted to support with \$10,000 in matching funds. Mount Snow has also verbally pledged to support.

Jim Barnes gave an update on the progress being made on the Hermitage. Membership topped 110 members and real estate sales are brisk.

Adam Grinold made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ryan Holton. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Baxter