

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee

April 4, 2013 - Minutes

Present: Ryan Holton, Gretchen Havreluk, Meg Streeter, Jim Barnes, Laura Sibilia, Scott Murphy, Dawn Baxter

Bi-Town Economic Development Meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Ryan Holton

Ryan moved to approve the minutes from March 7th's Bi-Town Economic Development Committee Meeting. Meg Streeter seconded. Vote: all in favor. The Bi-Town Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes from March 7, 2013 were approved.

Trails Update: Jeff Nugent from the Windham Regional Commission provided a map showing current snowmobile trails. It is possible to develop several different maps in a variety of sizes for kiosks and for individuals. The Windham Regional Commission expressed excitement over the prospect of a trail that links Wilmington and Dover. A list of landowners was also provided by WRC. The Committee reviewed this list and determined which member would contact which landowners to request permission to use the current snowmobile trails as hiking trails. Ryan will send the rest of the Bi-Town members the map electronically. After permission is gained from landowners, work on trails may be publicized.

Other Business: Laura Sibilia gave updates on Brattleboro Area Development Corporation's progress:

Flood Recovery Officers are in place. Wendy and Anthony will start at the town level and branch out from there. They are currently looking at how to best utilize resources and maximize benefits. Wendy is based in Wilmington and covers Wilmington and Dover.

The last round of applications for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery was on March 31st. The Deerfield Valley had the largest number of applications in Southern Vermont.

SEVEDS/CEDS – process is still ongoing with regional meetings on April 22nd. It is anticipated that the application process will be complete and open for public comments in September. Goals for CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) are increasing median income, education level, jobs and stopping the decline in population. There are four long term projects that are in the works: Sewer, Water, Mount Snow and Haystack. Patrick Moreland (Brattleboro Assistant Town Manager) is a good resource. There will be a series of focused invitation only meetings with consultants from different sectors. It is important that young people and employers attend meetings.

Ryan motioned to adjourn and Meg seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Baxter