

Minutes of Bi-Town Economic Development Meeting

June 6, 2013

Present: Gretchen Havreduk, Ryan Holton, Adam Grinold, Jim Barnes, Dale Ribaud, Kelly Pawlak, Ken Black, Randy Terk, Laura Sibilia, Scott Murphy, Wendy Woods, Jake White, Dawn Baxter

Approval of minutes from May 2, 2013: Randy motioned to approve minutes from 5/2/2013 Bi-Town Economic Development Meeting. Ryan seconded Motion. All were in favor.

Trails- Ryan gave a brief update on status of the "Valley Trail System". At this point, the majority of owners have given verbal permission. One owner is reluctant to give permission, as the sale of the property is imminent. Alternative routes were discussed for one section of the trail that is very muddy and meandering. Although this section is improvable, it would take a lot of resources, and it was agreed that a finding an alternate route would be the best course of action. There was some discussion about using part of the Mount Snow Bike Trail System. The next step is to follow up with property owners who have not yet submitted their signed permission forms. Maps can be developed as soon as all permissions are received.

Laura Sibilia was on hand to update group on BDCC activities:

SeVeds: Deeply embroiled in CEDS process which is due to be completed by 10/24/2013. There will be a regional meeting open for public comments. There will be a session in Wilmington on 6/24/2013. The original goals of SeVeds were stopping the population decline, increasing wages and attracting young professionals to the area.

Vital Economy: Focus group will be zeroing in on topics such as health care, finance, real estate, businesses, education and other quality of life issues. A survey indicates that young professionals are not well represented at meetings.

CEDS: in the process of identifying projects that will be achieved as part of the economic development goals. There will be a screening committee to determine priority of projects.

Southern Vermont Marketing- part of EDA grant: Reaching out to businesses and municipalities

CDBG-DR- BDCC: has awarded funds to be distributed for Irene Recovery. Is in the process of identifying unmet needs such as repairs to buildings, inventory replacement, etc. Town will explore who owns broken culvert for trails for CDB-DR grant.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Requires buyout from municipality. It was originally only for homes, but now is open to businesses. Requires 25% match. Municipality must be a partner. Flood Recovery officer has template letter. Letters of Intent are due on Friday.

Marketing Grant- Chambers to develop umbrella brand for Southern Vermont

Mount Snow Updates: Kelly Pawlak- Just usual summer events going on.

Hermitage Updates: Jim Barnes:

- Construction of base lodge is underway and should be covered in by Christmas. Occupancy in fall/winter of 2014 expected.
- Temporary ski patrol/administration building will be starting in next 30 days.
- Applied for lift permit
- Weir in Haystack brook to be built this summer
- More sewer/water through Coldbrook
- Extended sewer treatment complete by September. When complete, there will be enough water for all units.
- Three Single family homes to be built this summer
- “New England Village” permits in process
- Airport permission for permits option to purchase
- Quotes for paving plan to expand runway to land 7-9 passenger jets.
- Membership nearing 200. Membership events being planned. Will be marketing outside of valley this summer. Hired former head of operations from Stratton.
- Working on snow making, purchased new fans.
- Ski trails through woods are being pruned.

Dover Updates: Ken Black: Dover Park (South of 7-11) contractors have been chosen for building the gazebo and play area. 50% deposits are required for work to begin. Once payments have been received, layout of electrical lines, pouring of concrete and landscaping can begin.

Ken to head up finalization of signage for Valley Trail in order to capitalize on marketing with Adam and Ryan assisting. Town Manager suggests that funds for signs be utilized before the end of the fiscal year.

Wilmington Updates: Meg Streeter: Footbridge connecting trail from Crafts Inn through Moover property to Hoot Toot and Whistle trail is complete. There is now a full connection from the middle of town to the Boat Ramp.

Wilmington Works”, the Downtown Designation group, has hired Muldrow Consultants, who are experienced with rebuilding towns after flooding. They will help identify specific tasks and select projects.

Next meeting is the Second Thursday of the month- July 11th at 8:00 a.m . Map, signs, what’s next with trails will be discussed.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Dawn Baxter