

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Thursday July 10, 2014 8:00-9:00 am
Dover Town Offices

Attendance: Carlo Pilgrim, Heidi Taylor, Laura Sibilgia, Jake White, Kelly Pawlak, Jim Burke, Ken Black, Ryan Holton, Gretchen Havreluk, Pat Weishbrich

Meeting called to order at 8:05.

Heidi made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5th meeting. Ken seconded passed by committee.

Valley Trail Update

Grand Opening Ceremony went well.

Progress- The Town of Wilmington is currently waiting to hear from the attorney regarding Sure-Packing the trail. Scott Murphy, Wilmington Town Manager received a letter from Rebecca Chalmers from the Watershed Management Division at ANR regarding the wetlands that were mentioned in the Brattleboro Reformer regarding their approval process. Largest portion to Sure-Pack is on the Staib property. Jake has mowed from the Gate House to the end of the power line. The Kiosk in Wilmington on the north side of Route 9 has not been put up; however will be done shortly. He also saw many people are using the trail. Jeff Nugent, Windham Regional Commission planner is going to get a counter out on the trail that Jake will manage moving in three different locations.

Future- Discussed creating a Website or an App. App's are expensive, need a person managing on a daily basis and there are many complaints with them. A website is just as challenging with the management and paying for the domain name. The committee decided that having the map available on the town websites and the chamber website at this time is best. Jake suggested that we ask WRC to create enlargement maps for specific sections of the trail. These would be most effective as hand held maps for hikers and bikers. Jake commented that the Haystack Trail and Ridge Trails are well used and has been asked by many hikers about the clues for The Green Mountain Challenge. Chimney Hill put in a kiosk for the Haystack Trail. Carlo suggested that our role in the future of the trail is to monitor. Ken suggested that we expand the trail over time, as Dover's sidewalk project evolves and other trails connect in Wilmington. Maintenance of the trail was discussed. The Dover highway dept. will maintain the Dover portion of the trail and the trails committee in Wilmington will continue to do the maintenance for their portion. Maps and kiosk will be the responsibility of The Bi-Town

Committee. Ken is working on additional signage by the town borders on Handle Road. We do not need additional green "Valley Trail" signs at this time. Gretchen reported that Wilmington still has some funding remaining from the original \$5,000 given by the town.

Workforce Committee Update:

The committee has been meeting on the third Wednesday at 8am in Dover. Still working on a direction and will propose to the Bi-Town Committee.

Ceds Project – Updates

Laura Sibilgia reported that a call out for updates and new applications for the CEDS. The CEDS deadline is September 30th and ranked according to the criteria. The same committee will rank as last year. Announcement of awardees will be made in the late fall. A regional update will be created after the first of the year. The CEDS is updated every 5 years; however updates are provided annually. Use the SeVEDS website for more information on application criteria.

Windham Economic Development Program (VY MOU) – Update

Laura Sibilgia reported about the well-attended meeting yesterday with the Governor and Pat Moulton. They are still working on the application and nothing is set in concrete, and will tweak as needed. Their goal is to be a CEDS project. Tonight there is a meeting in Brattleboro regarding the revolving loan fund for businesses through VEDA. SeVEDS and BDCC will be requesting funds to implement the CEDS which includes a business accelerator with a business support system. For more information on this funding visit Gowindham.vermont.gov. The ACCD website is also helpful with public comments and slideshow presentations. There is also a Clean Energy Fund that was developed with Entergy funds. SeVEDS is disappointed in the approach that the state has taken in regards to the \$10 Million funds; however feel great about the work in Windham County and the process they have put in place with the CEDS.

Updates:

Wilmington- Working on a Façade Program, the new zoning administrator is working out well and doing lots of site visits, trash receptacles have been installed throughout the downtown, new banners by Wilmington Works. DuBois & King has been hired for the streetscape design.

Dover - Applied for an implementation grant for sidewalks to connect Dover Fitch Rd to Tollgate Plaza through VTrans and a planning study for sidewalks to connect the Mountain Park Plaza to Stugeer Road. The first concert in the park netted about 55 people another is this Sunday at 1.

Mount Snow – Working on the first phase of building West Lake through the EB5 funding. They are confident to raise the \$52 Million for the project. Once you get the momentum going. Been on the road working it. Updating snow making infrastructure.

Family Camp starts this week and held at Sundance and families are staying at Seasons on Mount Snow Condominiums. Dude Ranch style camp just in the mountains will be all over the valley with activities of golfing, kayaking, cooking classes, etc. Sign-ups are low; however committed to the camp for two years. Kelly is working on signing an agreement with Tough Mudder for next May or June. This is difficult to hold on to as, they continue to ask for more and Mount Snow has to work hard to maintain the property from the damage the event creates to stay in good standing with Forest Service.

SeVEDS- To approve budget and annual plan next week at the annual meeting. Adam Grinold will also be the new chairperson. The board will be sending out a letter requesting interest from regional private sector for additional board members. The board is looking specifically for interest in the 40 and under crowd. For the Dover and Wilmington area; Adam and Lisa serve on the board and Colby has just stepped down.

Chamber- They are still interviewing for an Interim director. The Cohesive Marketing and Branding Steering Committee was provided with a new brand identity last week; however have pushed back to the consultants for suggested changes.

Other Business:

Next meeting on August 7th and will convene in Wilmington. Ryan recommended that review our charge and possible work on other projects as cell & broadband coverage.

Motion to adjourn by Ryan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreluk