

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee

July 11, 2013

Minutes

Present: Adam Grinold, Gretchen Havereluk, Jacob White, Ryan Holton, Kelly Pawlak, Laura Sibia, Wendy Woods, Meg Streeter, Ken Black, Randy Terk, Jim Barnes

The Bi-Town Economic Development meeting was called to order by Adam Grinold at 8:07 a.m.

Randy Terk made a motion to approve the minutes from June 6, 2013. This motion was seconded by Ryan Holton. An amendment was made to the minutes to add the last name of one of the attendees. All were in favor. The Bi-Town Economic Development Committee meeting minutes from June 6, 2013 were approved as amended.

Update on Trails: Jacob White gave an update on the progress of the Valley Trail. There are still some outstanding issues that must be resolved before trail maps can be finalized. The signs have been ordered. Final permissions must be gathered before the trail map can be finalized and printed.

Windham County Redevelopment Initiative: Gretchen Havreluk, working in conjunction with the BDCC has sent letters to towns in Windham County requesting their assistance in compiling an inventory of buildings that are vacant. The buildings will then be assessed and listed with square footage and other information so that they may be used for potential startup businesses.

CEDS Ideas: Currently, projects for inclusion are being sought for inclusion. These projects can be presented in narrative form and not necessarily be "shovel ready." Submissions will go before a committee who will then determine which are "high priority". This is part of a regional plan to make projects more favorable to federal, state and private funding. The determining factors that will be used by the committee in making determinations are which projects will have the most regional impact in growing the economy. The Bi-Town Committee will support the CEDS process by helping to determine what the priorities are for both towns and individual businesses. Some ideas for possible submissions to the CEDS process are expanding the municipal sewer, improvement of trails and relocation of town services out of the flood plain.

Other Bi-Town Work: There was a brief discussion on other work that the Bi-Town Committee could undertake now that work on trails is coming to an end. One suggestion is to capitalize on VTEL Fiber Connect. The committee members will give some thought to other ideas to present at next month's meeting.

Wilmington Update: The report from the Conway School has been received. The lights for the West Main Street parking lot are on order. They should be installed in time for fall. The Wilmington Trail Committee has been doing work behind the Crafts Inn and also on the Hoot Toot and Whistle Trails.

Dover Update: The new park is coming along nicely. Cement for the gazebo is ready to be poured and by the end of the month, most of the work should be completed. The Business Revitalization Plan, "Do It", has been reinstated with the beginning of the new fiscal year. All funds were allocated on the first day that the program opened.

Hermitage Update: The airport parking lot and runway has been paved and a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on July 20th. Charter flights for members, guests and potential new members will begin arriving for planned golf outings. An advertising agency and PR firm have been retained. Tickets for the Wilmington Fund Fundraiser are selling well.

Wilmington Works: The new logo for Wilmington Works has been chosen, although the tag line has not been determined as of yet. A firm has been hired to help with needs assessment and will begin work in early September. A Volunteer Coordinator will be hired.

Other Business: Meg Streeter brought forth a suggestion from a Wilmington resident that Southern Vermont should be branded as the "Maple Sugar Capital".

Next Meeting is August 1st at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Adam Grinold made a motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meg Streeter seconded motion. All were in favor, and the Bi-Town Economic Development Committee adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Baxter