

**Minutes of Bi-Town Economic Development Committee Meeting
August 1, 2013**

Present: Adam Grinold, Ryan Holton, Jacob White Ken Black, Randy Terk, Meg Streeter, Lori Newton, Laura Sibilila, Gretchen Havreluk, Dawn Baxter

The Meeting of the Bi-Town Economic Development Committee was called to order by Adam Grinold at 8:08 a.m.

Approve the minutes of July 11, 2013: Meg Streeter moved and Ryan Holton seconded to approve the minutes of July 11, 2013. Vote: All in favor

Trails Update: Jacob White was on hand to update the group on the status of trails: The first section of the Valley Trail is marked and usable. Sure pack and culverts may be necessary in a few sections. Signs are in place west of the footbridge to the base of Chimney Hill. There will be a press release in the Deerfield Valley News next week to alert the public of the newly opened section. Permission from one property owner is being sought in order to open the second section of the trail. Meg Streeter thanked Jacob White and Ryan Holton for their time and efforts to get the Valley Trail open and said that she thought that this was a great alternative to walking along Route 9. Maps for the Valley Trail are available at inns around the area. There was discussion of publicly thanking all of the landowners.

Update on Broadband/Cellular Service: There are still a few roads in both towns where internet/cellular service is not available. There was discussion of both towns collaborating and possibly using economic develop funds to incentivize telecommunications companies to do what is necessary to provide services.

CEDS Updates: As of now, one business and two towns are participating.

Flood Insurance Relief Advocacy: Due to Hurricane Sandy, flood insurance will increase for many from \$500 to \$10,000 per year. This increase is unacceptable. The Flood zone has been extended and now more houses and businesses are located within the Flood Zone. This is a major stumbling block to occupying the empty buildings along the river and will have a huge impact on people's willingness start businesses or purchase homes in the area. There was a discussion of drafting a letter to delegates supporting making changes to flood insurance bill. It is believed that many affected towns will collaborate. More discussion to come at future meetings.

Dover Update: The gazebo and fence is in place at the new park. Landscaping will come next. Streetlights have been delayed by about four weeks and will go in last. Water and electric will be in place soon. The park is anticipated to be open by mid September.

Mount Snow: Foundation restoration on the farmhouse at Howe's Field is underway to prevent further deterioration of the building. The Tough Mudder is this weekend. Approximately 8,500 registrants and guests are expected to be in attendance.

Adam Grinold is in the process of exploring the benefits of the Foreign Trade Zone Designation, which extends in a 60-mile circumference around Brattleboro and includes Wilmington. The designation may help businesses avoid paying import/export tariffs, which can be a draw for individuals interested in starting a business in the area.

There being no further business, Randy Terk made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ryan Holton. Vote: All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05.