

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Thursday October 1, 2015 8:00-9:00 am
Wilmington Town Offices

Attendance: Ryan Holton, Sharon Cunningham, Diane Chapman, Pat Weisbrich, Ken Black, Randy Terk, Rob Aubin, Scott Murphy, Brad Marcell (Hermitage Club Director of Operations).

Randy moved to accept the minutes of the September meeting Diane seconded. Approved

Bi-Town Marketing Plan Progress/Update-

Sharon, Gretchen and Ken reported the committee has been working on obtaining vendors for pieces of the marketing campaign. They have been reaching out to local inn/hotels, retailers and restaurant owners regarding a survey for anonymous reporting of sales, rooms rented, etc., as well as a website pixel that would tell where locations of potential visitors are coming from; which has been well received.

Valley Trail Update Progress/Update-

The utility poles near the foot bridge in Wilmington are getting moved for the bridge to be raised 4 ½ feet on the West Main St side and 1 ½ feet on the other side. The work will start the beginning of November.

Ken reported they received a VTrans Bike/Ped grant for a scoping study from the Fire House to the south access road at Mount Snow.

Ridge Trail access- The Town of Dover completed the GPS coordinates and forwarding to the engineer for final specs. Hope to hire a contractor in the spring unless the environmental review is delayed.

Telecommunications Progress/Update-

Jeff Nebbins from Fairpoint completed the fiber/broadband analysis in Dover. Unfortunately they only analyzed the Fairpoint lines and no copies are available as it is proprietary information. Ken will research managing our own program.

What Next?

Roads- Scott reported that next summer Wilmington will be paving Ray Hill Boyd Hill, Beaver St, Church St and the second large culvert on Coldbrook Road will be replaced. Scott also reported that Route 9 through town will be paved next year. Dover has a paving plan; however was not available. Randy reported that Handle Road and Dover Road have been recently paved and Route 100 is in good shape. Dover sent a letter to the DOT regarding road conditions for last winter; however they were told that they have limited resources and doing the best they can. Gretchen suggested being lobbyist to the legislatures and VT agencies. Sharon will research road closures from last winter on Searsbrug and Hogback and develop a draft letter to Agency of Commerce and Community Development and our local Legislatures.

Updates:

Wilmington - The waste water treatment renovation started this week and hope to be completed by the end of April. Working on a community garden at Howe Field for next year. Working with the United Way Working Bridges program to create a local employers group for recruitment and training, Unfortunately did not receive the East Main St sidewalk grant, working on a Memorial Hall grant for windows, The OSEC committee continues to meet as well as the new working group for a community center in the old high school.

Dover- The Post Office to Fire House project had the scoping study update meeting with the use of teleconference. Dorr Fitch to Toll Gate will most likely be completed in 2017. Two successful major festivals ITVFest and Wine & Harvest were well attended.

Mount Snow- No report given

Hermitage Club- Currently 50 constructions projects are underway and will be online before or shortly after Christmas. The lift will be completed by Columbus Day. Another restaurant facility is being constructed on mid mountain. The White House renovation is almost complete and working on kitchen upgrades in the other facilities.

Sveds- No report given

Chamber- Successful Wine & Harvest Festival, Windows of the Valley Auction at the Village Roost will be on Oct 10th at 4pm, Nov 12th is the Chamber gala, VT Chambers will be coming on Nov 16th to legislative breakfast for business owners, Working on the Bright Lights promotion.

Other Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:53am

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreluk