

BI-TOWN COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 6, 2016
Dover Town Office | 8 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

- Ken Black
- Johnny Cleanthes
- Sharon Cunningham
- Adam Grinold
- Pat Weisbrich
- Sunny Leporati
- Brandan McGrail
- Kelly Pawlak
- Laura Sibia
- Jake White
- Heidi Taylor
- Randy Terk

Heidi Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ken Black, seconded by Sharon Cunningham, the minutes from the September meeting were approved unanimously.

II. BDCC - RCDI USDA Grant Update – Adam Grinold and Sunny Leporati

Adam presented a review of the history of and purpose for the RCDI grant. In 2014, the legislature created economic zones to provide a platform for which regions can coordinate on workforce development. Bennington and Windham counties are a designated zone. To receive the grant, qualified low and moderate income communities had to be designated participants. Sunny is now working to connect designated participants, municipalities, non-profits and others involved in workforce development for the purpose of coordinating efforts, working smarter, getting better organized to enhance the efficiency of workforce development.

III. Bi-Town Marketing Plan Update – Sharon Cunningham

- The Marketing plan is now in the testing phase with a core group of 12 businesses. Three weeks of data will be gathered prior to inviting the entire business community to participate.
- There is also a change from Centro, whose minimum buy-in is too high to Smart SEM, a company that allows for smaller ad buys.
- Creative refresh with Opus Design is now complete and has been launched.

IV. Valley Trail Update – Jake White

Jake gave an overview of the slow progress on the trail and the issues he has encountered as he tries to move this forward. Waiting for ANR to approve doing work on the trail, which has yet to come through. He gave the example of wanting to place stepping stones in areas where the trail is routinely wet. He has been asked to provide information on the number of stones and the dimensions of the stones, but a permit has yet to be issued. This stimulated a lively debate as to who to approach and how to accomplish the task of keeping things moving.

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- Kelly referenced a 501C3 corporation at Burke Mountain that has been successful with the building the Kingdom Trail and suggested that a committee be formed by people passionate about the Deerfield Valley and who might be willing to pursue this. Suggested that Mount Snow is beginning to look in the direction of involvement with the creation of trails and other summer recreational activities subsequent to navigating the projects that are already in progress
- Heidi proposed the formation of a committee and asked Jake to be a part of it. Sharon also agreed to participate. Other names suggested were the Hunts, Mike Purcell, the Gannons and John Green.
- Randy suggested that a document summary be gathered to create a timeline of contacts with the State to document how this project has been delayed. Jake agreed to create the timeline.

V. Telecommunications Update – Ken

- Fairpoint is nearing completion of the study about providing Fiber Optic service (multi-tiered) to businesses and homes in Dover. Scope of project includes the design, implementation and costs to end user
- A presentation will be made to the Dover Selectboard near the end of October or in early November

VI. Updates

A. Wilmington – No report

B. Dover

- Sidewalk nearing completion
- Have a construction grant to extend trail from Dorr Fitch Road to Tollgate Village
- Are on a waiting list for funding trail from Country Club Road to Edwards Village Loop
- Estimated completion date for all sections of the trail is probably 2025...or beyond

C. Mount Snow- Kelly – See above

D. Hermitage Club – Brandan

- Have Act 250 meeting next week.
- Have secured a letter of support from the Town of Wilmington

E. SVEDS – Laura Sibilia

- Encouraged everyone to attend the following

Phil Scott	13-Oct	Dover Town Hall	1:30 p.m.
Sue Minter	19-Oct	Wilmington, Memorial Hall	1:30 p.m.
	20-Oct	Dover Town Hall	7:00 p.m.
	28-Oct	Wardsboro Library	7:00 p.m.
All Payer Public Hearing	12-Oct	Brattleboro Retreat Education Center	9:30 a.m.

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F. SVDV Chamber of Commerce

- Candidate forms mentioned above
- Membership
- Chamber Guidebooks ready for distribution
- Wine & Harvest – Primary Chamber fundraiser. Changed format this year to only one day at Mount Snow. Have received very positive feedback. Hermitage Inn won the Soup Stroll
- Wildlife Festival worked very well this year
- 1st Annual Valley Restaurant Week – Had 11 participants. Was a success, but decided to hold it next year in June during a slow season
- Chamber ballots are out. Please vote
- Annual Gala will be held on Friday, December 12 at the Dover Forge (6-10 p.m.)

G. Next Project? Valley Trail Committee to push forward?

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016 at the Dover Town Offices, 2nd Floor at 8:00 a.m.

On a motion by Randy Terk, seconded by Sharon Cunningham, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Weisbrich

Pat Weisbrich
Assistant Director, Dover Economic Development