

BiTown Committee Meeting, November 7, 2013 , 8 AM, Wilmington town meeting room

Present: Adam Grinold, Ken Black, Laurie Newton,, Gretchen Havreluk, Ryan Holton, Laura Silbilia, Jim Barnes, Meg Streeter, Scott Murphy

Visitors: Jake White, Wendy Woods

Adam called the meeting to order at 8:10. There were no minutes from the October 3rd meeting as there was not a quorum of members present.

Gretchen and Ryan provided an update about the Valley Trail map being prepared by Jeff Nugent at Windham Regional Commission - should be ready for spring and a "grand opening" of the trail.

Ken reported that an Economic Development assistant, Pat Weisbrich, has started work and they are moving ahead with additional planning in the landscape architecture area. Meg mentioned that it would be timely for both Selectboards to focus on a goal for Bi-Town for 2014 to be brought to the December meeting. Gretchen reported that two vacant Wilmington village commercial buildings are under contract with new businesses planned. One potential new business wants to be in the village specifically because of the Valley Trail. She also mentioned the coming of two "pop-up " retail stores for the month of December . Wifi zones are now active in town.

Laura reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development study for our region will be officially released on December 5th at Marlboro College and that there are 12 vital projects identified therein.

Jim mentioned the ongoing progress on the Hermitage Haystack base lodge, a new lift from the Gatehouse as well as new single family homes and townhouses. New staff has been hired for membership sales and marketing of corporate events.

Adam updated the group about the USDA-funded marketing campaign for "our" brand, about the work being done by the business development group and about the progress on the renovation/expansion in Whitingham of the Twin Valley Middle High School. He also mentioned that his term as chair would be up at the end of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Streeter

--