

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Thursday February 4, 2015 Wilmington Town Offices

Attendance: Kelly Pawlak, Heidi Taylor, Pat Weisbrich, Ryan Holton, Ken Black, Randy Terk, Gretchen Havreduk, Diane Chapman, Sharon Cunningham, and Scott Murphy

Called to order at 8:06am

Heidi made a motion to accept the December Meeting minutes 2nd by Ken So Moved

Bi-Town Marketing Plan

Gretchen reported: The need for good writers to blog about our community. Bloggers are being paid \$50 per blog. Working with Centro on search engine marketing with lead titles and content. Working with Vickery Hill for developing an electronic reporting mechanism for restaurants, lodging and retailers. The questions for the survey have been developed through the committee. Hopefully will be running testing in June and July 1st we will implement the surveys with incentives for businesses to report. Working on digital ads for the spring through summer using local photographers.

Valley Trail Update

Ryan reported that two lots (Dammeyer at the end of Ives Road) are for sale on the Valley Trail that we should be aware of; once sold we would need to make new agreements with the new property owners.

Heidi will follow up with The Hermitage Club regarding the letter that was to be drafted by their Director of Communications to ANR regarding the issues and delays in working with ANR. She will also speak with Jake White regarding the Act 250 specialist, Michael Zahner that the Hermitage Club offered to pay for his time to assist us in sure packing the trail.

The Wilmington Trails committee is working on getting affidavits signed from landowners which state the existence of the trail system since the 1970's, in which will help the case of sure packing.

Telecommunications

Ken reached out to Fairpoint and Sovernet for cost estimates to get all of Dover set up with fiber. Fairpoint quoted the 50 miles to be between \$1.5-\$2.5 million and Duncan Cable was \$25K per mile. Ken is going to contact Comcast for an estimate as well. Fairpoint is going to do a full report that cost \$25K. Sharon suggested that we make priorities to getting fiber to homeowners, second homeowners or businesses. Sharon and Gretchen will work on a written informational piece to give to realtors regarding the Sovernet offer.

Gretchen reported that the Higley Hill section has not been connected as of yet. Duncan Cable has been working on this section for over a year.

Roads:

Sharon reported the electronic road condition warning signs on the Brattleboro side have been working well. The Chamber has been posting/sharing the Facebook pages that give road conditions; which are: *Eastern Route 9 Road Conditions* and *Searsburg Road Conditions*. Heidi reported that the paving of Route 9 is not going to happen this year and there is nothing below Route 4. Gretchen will Draft letter to AOT regarding road conditions in the winter and the road maintenance issues in the summer for the next meeting.

Updates:

Wilmington – Gretchen reported the town has been awarded a VTrans Alternative Grant for the north side of East Main St. sidewalks with an additional crosswalk and lighting. The West Main St Sidewalk Project is in the state permitting stage and hoping for a spring construction. The Select Board hired Stevens & Associates to further study the Old High School and should have their final report by mid-March. Scott reported that the Coldbrook Road culvert replacement has been put on hold for the summer due to priority changes. The Look Road bridge needs to be replaced. Wilmington Works is sponsoring a Spot the Snowman and Apres ski after 3 five week event and starts this weekend.

Dover-Ken reported that the Summer Concert Series is scheduled for July & August on Sundays from 1-3. Four construction projects are underway. Bazin Brothers has been hired for construction of Dorr Fitch Rd to the north end of Mount Snow Marketplace. Permitting for Dorr Fitch south to the Tollgate Plaza have started. Two Scoping studies: B+ South end of Dover Park to the Firehouse and the Firehouse to the south entrance of Mount Snow. A public meeting will be held for renovation of the Town Hall.

Mount Snow – Kelly reported the DRB meeting for Carintha Project for new lodge is this evening. They continue to work on the water project that was started last year. Despite rumors they are still making snow. Skier visits are down; however they have positive feedback on conditions. Summer bookings are very strong with peak times being booked.

Hermitage Club- None available

Sveds- None available

Chamber- Sharon shared a great resource that has a tremendous amount of data that was started by Jeff Lewis, the former Executive Director of the BDCC; is the VT Future Project. The website is vtfuturesproject.org. They are working to attract people to Vermont. The Chamber held a round table discussion with members and non-chamber members to get a better understanding of business needs and how the chamber can assist them. Another session will be held in the spring.

Other Business:

Next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd.

Adjourned at 9:06am

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreduk