

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Thursday February 2nd 2017 8:00am
Wilmington Town Offices

Attendance: Heidi Taylor, Tom Fitzgerald, Ken Black, Pat Weisbrich, Gretchen Havreluk, Brendan McGrail, Kelly Pawlak, Sharon Cunningham, Randy Terk

Meeting called to order at 8:09 am

Randy made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 5,2017 meeting. Kelly 2nd. Passed with one abstention (Tom). Sharon made a motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting on January 12,2017. Ken 2nd. Passed with two abstentions (Tom & Kelly).

Review Bi-Town Charge -Randy made a motion to accept the Charge as presented Heidi 2nd. A discussion regarding minor changes of naming the towns involved in the Charge and to the number of administrative staff members from each of the participating towns changed from two to one. Randy amended the motion to the above changes and Heidi 2nd. Unanimously passed.

BDCC- No comments provided

Bi-Town Marketing Plan- Met with Opus Design for tag lines for Summer ad campaign. A display promoting the Valley was at the Guilford Welcome Center for the month of January and we will have again in June and September.

Valley Trail Update- No comments provided.

Trail Network Meeting Report- Kelly reported the group met for their third meeting with not a lot in attendance however, the people that are attending are very engaged and as summer approaches they will have more time. They have been discussing if they need their own 501(c)3, working on some short-term goals, creating a maintenance plan and the need for someone to chair the committee. Next meeting Thursday, Feb 9th 6pm Dover Town office.

Telecommunications- Ken reported that the RFP process brought only one bidder which was FairPoint.

Priced two different pieces: First piece-fiber to the neighborhood; most expensive and probably least desirable at \$5.9 million Second piece-fiber to the premise (home or business); looked at two ways: 100% funded by Town of Dover-connection to the pole at \$4.8 million If Dover funds 90% and Fairpoint 10%--\$4.3 million.

Rates based on 100% funding: 50-megabit down/25 up: \$32.00 per month for residents, 150-megabit down/75 up: \$52.80, 1 gigabit down/1 gigabit up: \$80.00

Rates based on 90% funding: \$40.00; \$65.99; \$100.00 respectively

\$29.99 activation fee includes connection from pole to building; purchase or rent router

Prices are guaranteed for the first three years

In home professional installation fee is waived for first three years

Ken will share the bid with the Bi-Town Committee. Ken is researching the use of public tax dollars to fund telecom projects as he understood that was not allowable under statute.

Update Permitting Study- Gretchen updated the committee on the defeated vote at the Dover Select Board and the discussion in Wilmington. We have received some press about the issue which caught the attention of Diane Snelling the Chair of the Natural Resources Board at the State level. She will provide the data to John Gannon and Laura Sibia. Randy feels that keeping the topic in the fore front is important. Jim Barnes will be meeting with the Governor next week regarding the ACT 250 permit for the Hermitage Club. Tom mentioned that Southern Vermont is not well represented on the ACT 250 Environmental Board, therefore need local people to submit applications to the Governor. We also need to show examples to the state of the inequities we are witnessing. Gretchen will contact Jake White to obtain the three-year email correspondence regarding the Valley Trail.

Updates:

Wilmington – Diane Chapman resigned as a select board member and the board will appoint someone for her remaining term, Town Manager is leaving, Education tax is very high for Wilmington and Whitingham, Look Road temporary bridge is in and project is ahead of schedule.

Dover- Interviewing for Economic Development position and should hire someone by the end of month, did not get construction grant for the B+ Trail, A- had a permitting snag, engineering is now continuing and construction will be 2018, rewriting the revitalization grant.

Mount Snow – The West Lake project will commence this summer however, filling the lake will be the biggest challenge. Will start building Carinthia Lodge in September 2017.

Hermitage Club- CFO, Jim & Brendan will meet with the Governor on Feb 6th regarding the ACT 250 Permit, over the last week they started a letter writing, tweeting, fb, Instagram, email campaign to the Governor and was very well received by members, employees and locals, they have been told they will have a decision on the permit by Feb 6th.

SeVEDS- No available update

SVDV Chamber- Good travel tradeshow in NYC last weekend.

An update regarding VTrans paving of Route 9 for the summer was provided. Tom indicated that rumble strips will only be in non-residential areas along Route 9. Heidi indicated that on the VTrans website Route 100 is listed as “extreme poor condition” with no date for resurfacing.

Other Business: None

Randy moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 am. Kelly 2nd So Moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreduk