

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee

Thursday May 5, 2015 8:00-9:00 am

Present: Sharon Cunningham, Tom Fitzgerald, Randy Terk, Heidi Taylor, Kelly Pawlak, Gretchen Havreluk, Adam Grinold, Brendan McGrail (via phone), and guest Jake White and Alex Beck.

Randy was elected to Chair the meeting.

Heidi made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting, 2nd by Sharon. So Moved

Workforce Development-

Adam Grinold and Alex Beck from Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) presented a new workforce development program available. Alex has been working with local high schools in developing an internship program and steering individual students to curriculum that would help them achieve their goal. The BDCC has been convening a Roundtable series on workforce development with different sectors. The Roundtables are focused on long term training programs that recruit employees and train them so they are ready for work in multiple industries. CCV has been providing that training program which includes hospitality.

Recently, Lyndon State College developed a training program for the Northeast Kingdom and is now willing to take this throughout Vermont. The BDCC is willing to collaborate or partner with Bi-Town and any other organizations that are interested in providing this hospitality training in the Valley.

The Hospitality Program provides a guest service training-teaching best practices and how you present yourself that cost \$85 per person and includes an exam book and a pin with certification from the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute. They also offer Supervisory Skill Development training- teaching managers over 2 days management practices for multiple employees with a cost of \$369 per person.

VT has one of the highest high school graduation rates and the lowest secondary education rates. The outcome of these programs is to retain and recruit employees to live in Windham County with higher livable wages. Lyndon State is willing to come to the valley and present the program.

The Bi-Town Workforce Development Committee will reconvene with the BDCC to organize financial resources for these programs and a community wide meeting in the Deerfield Valley.

Bi-Town Marketing Plan

Progress/Update- Gretchen reported that the Bi-Town Marketing Committee has been working hard to implement the digital marketing campaign and indicated the need for more technology and marketing expertise; therefore the committee recommends to add or replace existing members with the Mount Snow Marketing Director, Thad Quimby and The Hermitage Club Director of Communications, Brendan McGrail. Randy made a motion to add two members to the Bi-Town Marketing Committee of the Marketing Director from Mount Snow and the Director of Communications from The Hermitage Club. Heidi seconded. So moved. Randy suggested that we

inform the select boards of the change and no vote is needed by the boards. Gretchen is to discuss with Ken regarding his thoughts regarding the select board's approval.

Valley Trail Update

Jake provided an update regarding the sure packing of the trail. Affidavits have been given by three individuals regarding the trail being in existence prior to Act 250. These affidavits have been forwarded to the ACT 250 consultant. Hopefully we will hear shortly if we need to go through the Act 250 process.

Jake also reported damage that has been done to the trail in two locations. One is on the power line. Green Mountain Power has hired a contractor to trim/cut trees their equipment is significantly damaging the trail. He has contacted GMP and is in discussions about restoring them for the summer hiking season. The second is between Reardon's Bridge and the Chimney Hill area in which multiple ATV's have been spinning up the trail. Jake has spoken to one of the culprits, he has added additional No ATV signage, and spoken with the Wilmington Police Department.

Gretchen gave an update on available APP's for the Valley Trail. She consulted with Jeff Nugent at Windham Regional Commission and indicated the State is developing with the State of New Hampshire a website and app called the Trail Finder. Gretchen showed a demo of the site which provides locations through Google Earth and complete descriptions with things to do along the way of the trail system. Jeff will add the Wilmington trails to the Trail Finder. She also noted that Google Maps also is great tool. It was agreed to place these on our next reprint of the maps and on the current websites.

Telecommunications

Randy suggested reviewing the minutes of the last Dover Select Board meeting for an update on internet service in Dover.

Sharon made a motion to adjourn at 9:08am So moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreluk