

**Bi-Town Economic Development Committee**  
**Thursday August 6, 2015 8:00-9:00 am**  
**Wilmington Town Offices**

Attendance: Heidi Taylor, Rob Aubin, Gretchen Havreluk, Mike Chase, Adam Grinold, Kelly Pawlak, Ryan Holton, Sharon Cunningham, Randy Terk, Diane Chapman, Jake White, Pat Weisbrich, Ken Black, Laura Sibilgia, Anna Drozdowski, Scott Murphy

A motion was made by Heidi to approve the minutes of the July meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Passed

**Bi-Town Marketing Plan**

Town Approval- Gretchen gave an overview of the two select board meetings and the approval from both towns; contingent upon both towns participating. Other comments were the two at large Bi-Town Members be one from each town and that the members have some background in digital marketing.

Creation of Bi-Town Marketing Committee- Ryan made a motion to nominate Adam Grinold -Passed. Randy suggested Laura and she accepted the nomination. The Dover Select Board will have to approve her as a Dover representative on Bi-Town. We will vote on her election to the Bi-Town Marketing Committee at the September meeting. She will attend the first Bi-Town Marketing Committee meeting in August.

**Telecommunications Update**- Ken reported that VTel was in the Blueberry Parade and handing out brochures; however there is some confusion as to whether they are able to provide service here in the valley. They have towers in Townshend and Putney and service can only be provided to homes within 8 miles of the towers. Adam referenced the three articles that ran in the VT Digger. Mike suggested municipally funded service.

**Valley Trail Update**

Results of Wetland Assessment- Jake reported that Jeff Parsons from Arrowwood, a wetlands consultant, mapped out the wetlands areas on the Valley Trail. Jake, John Gannon, Jeff Parsons, Angela from the Army Corp of Engineers, and Rebecca Chalmers from ANR walked a portion of the trail. Unfortunately, Rebecca was 45 mins late and then had to leave an hour into the walk. Rebecca will most likely have to return to make final determination on the trail. Jeff is writing a report and will forward to Rebecca for her comments. We are still unsure if we need an Act 250 permit. They are trying to determine and provide documentation of when the snowmobile trail was developed in this area. Most likely the trail improvements will not begin until next spring.

Jake reported the Green Mountain Challenge has been very successful bringing people into the valley and people are hiking the trails...Ken said 1600 people.

Andy McLean and Ken met with the US Forest Service regarding a trail head for the Ridge Trail. They were positive about the project; however there will be no motorized vehicles, no mountain biking or snowmobiling allowed on the trail. The town would have to pay for the parking area. They will develop a proposal to submit by next March.

Hoot Toot and Whistle Trail has a new board walk and was donated by Barry Reardon.

### **Updates:**

Wilmington- Façade Improvement Grant Program spent down approx.. \$30K of the \$75K, Italian Restaurant had a delay in opening, parking concerns that Wilmington Works is helping on, Wastewater infrastructure improvements, more banners have been placed around town, Historic District and parking signs have been installed, OSEC group is moving forward on the community center at the old high school- the health center has committed to building their new facility there.

Dover - Sidewalk grants and waiting on the final approval of the design, getting bids for construction, scoping study should be completed by March for the sidewalk from Mountain Park Plaza to West Dover Fire House. Construction for the sidewalk from Dorr Fitch to the park will start in the spring. Concerts in the park are going well.

Mount Snow – The West Lake project had a problem with the cloudy water in the rivers; as recommended by the state, they were filling in the gravel pits with a fine fill which made the rivers cloudy. The state visited the site and came up with a new plan by rerouting the stream. Handle Road construction- The road is opened on weekends, holidays and evenings after 6; however they have town approval for dawn till dusk. They will pave the road and construction will cease for the winter. Mount Snow is willing to work individually with residence being affected by the road closure. This is a two year project. Act 250 Pre-hearing for the new Carinthia Lodge will be in the early Fall and construction would start next Summer.

Hermitage Club - Lift installation is on schedule, town homes and condos should be open by late December, Act 250 process for the hotel is going well and construction to possibly begin in the Fall, hiring new year around and seasonal management positions, they have had five weddings this summer, White house should be open by the Fall, they are rebranding the restaurant at The Inn at Sawmill, and membership sales are strong. Hermitage properties are open 50% to members and 50% to the public. Public guest can stay one time and they are charged a resort fee. Wilmington resident passes are still valid and can obtain them through the reservation line. Horizon Inn and Nordic Hills Lodge are for employee housing.

Chamber-Blueberry Festival is in full swing and WCAX came for the kickoff events, best Jello slide participation they have had, over 600 people attended the blueberry splash events, car show this Friday in Jacksonville, Blueberry Block Party Saturday and still need some more volunteers. Planning for the Wine and Harvest

Festival is going well with 55 vendors signed up. They do need volunteers; volunteers receive free entry to use on another day. October 1<sup>st</sup> will kick off the membership drive.

Other Business: No other business

Next Meeting Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Randy made a motion to adjourn- So moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreluk