

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee

Thursday September 1, 2016 8am

Wilmington Town Offices

Attendance: Heidi Taylor, Ken Black, Gretchen Havreluk, John Cleanthes, Brendan McGrail, Sharon Cunningham, Randy Terk, Kelly Pawlak, Scott Murphy, and Laura Sibilila

Randy Moved to accept the minutes of the July 14,2016 meeting. Ken seconded. Passed with one abstention-Randy

Bi-Town Marketing Update: Sharon reported the release of the fall adverting will go out today. We are working on creating videos and getting quotes from vendors. The Economic Dashboard (survey mechanism) is close to being launched with Valley businesses (Chamber and non-chamber members are to participate). A Launch Party for businesses is scheduled for the end of September. We are also working on the display and brochure rack at the Guilford Welcome Center.

Valley Trail Update: Heidi reported that she spoke with Jake White a few days ago and a plan has been submitted to ACT 250. They are able to make minimal improvements this year. Hopefully next year we will have full approval to move forward with finalizing the project.

Telecommunications Update: Ken reported that Dover should receive the FairPoint quote at the end of September. They have been discussing strategies with FairPoint. Remote terminals are being placed for better bandwidth for residents on Dover Hill Road, Old Town Road, Ellis Brook Road, and Valley View Road. FairPoint has recently renovated the central office with Advanced DSL. Gretchen reported that in Whitingham residents are moving to VTel Wireless as FairPoint service is not consistent and getting costly.

Updates:

Wilmington: West Main Street Sidewalk has been delayed to spring 2017 construction and other challenges with the Environmental Review, Restaurants in town are doing well; however, retail is struggling a bit, Lots of publicity around the 5th Anniversary of Irene was helpful.

Dover: Major sidewalk project along Route 100 the poles for lights are up and half of the globes are attached. Granite curbing construction will begin next week and the guardrails will be moved on Country Club Road to make room for the sidewalk. The project is coming in less than projected even though they have to replace catch basins.

Mount Snow: Beer Fest is this weekend and projected that more people will attend this year due to the increase to 50 brewery's serving. A local discount is available on Sunday. Lift operation through foliage. EB5 money still in escrow. Working on projects in house of grading on ski baba and making way for the magic carpet which will be operational for winter. White sale going on for ski lift tickets.

Hermitage Club: Waiting on ACT 250 permit from the multiple amendments from divesting of the airport. The new owner will continue to manage in the same way. The White House is hosting Shelburne Vineyards in September.

BDCC: The USDA grant project for Windham and Bennington Counties is to combine all economic development projects that are going on; this is a means of sharing best practices, façade improvements, other information that would be helpful to municipalities and ED organizations. Santina from Winhall has been hired as the coordinator and is starting next week. Both Governor candidates are scheduled to visit; Sue Minter will be here on October 6th and Phil Scott on October 7th. They will address the communities at Memorial Hall and Dover Town Hall. Our attendance at these presentations are important for us to give feed back to the candidates regarding our challenges here in The Valley. The BDCC also hired a new Internship Coordinator, Devon Green he will be working with Alex Beck. Dairy Summit coming up soon.

Chamber: Wine & Harvest Festival Sept 16th Wine Stroll and Saturday at Mount Snow and the Wine Dinners. The Vermont Wildlife Festival will be on Sunday at Mount Snow and is free to attend but donations are encouraged. Restaurant week September 18th -26th information will be online. The Toboggans are going to be on display outside in Wilmington and to Dover after the Wine & Harvest Festival. Auction will be on November 26th.

Next meeting is Thursday October 6, 2016

Randy moved to adjourned, Sharon Seconded. So Moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreluk