

**Bi-Town Economic Development Committee**  
**Thursday December 7th 8:00-9:00 am**  
**Wilmington Town Offices**

Attendance: Vicki Capitani, Heidi Taylor, Brendan McGrail, Sharon Cunningham, John Cleanthes, Meredith Dennes, Adam Grinold, Ryan Holton, Tom Fitzgerald, Erik Barnes, and Gretchen Havreluk

Meeting called to order 8:10 am

Vicki moved to approve the September minutes. Brendan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed

Welcomed Erik Barnes to the Bi-Town meeting and at this time will serve as the vice chair as Kelly had.

ACT 250 Permitting update- Gretchen distributed an excerpt of reporting from Diane Snelling. The link for the full report is at:

[http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/333/Date/10-25-](http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/333/Date/10-25-2017#documents-section)

[2017#documents-section](http://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2018/333/Date/10-25-2017#documents-section) Much of this data was collected by the Legislative Steering Committee. There is a lot of information here with information from the Listening Tour in the spring and testimony from government leaders and district commissioners.

Points of interest in the report is 2016 figures were not included in parts of the report and there was no reporting from District 2 on a review of 10 permits that took longer than 60 days. A question of the number of staff in each district was asked. Gretchen to share the link with everyone. We will invite Diane Snelling back to talk about these reports and provide an update about changes in the system.

Local Purchasing Policy- Gretchen distributed the excerpt from the Mullin Report regarding a Local Purchasing Policy that was focused around Mount Snow; however, this could be valley wide. Gretchen reported many businesses struggling in the valley and this is one way we can help ourselves by purchasing from each other. This does not mean that businesses have to buy exclusively from local vendors, but what about a portion of what they order. Discussion was regarding local businesses are not able to provide competitive pricing and availability of product are issues. A recommendation was made to have businesses call other businesses with their weekly specials and a social media campaign. This will be brought up again at our January meeting.

Bi-Town Marketing Plan- Sharon reported that after the Dover Select Board meeting update with a business owner saying that he had 15 businesses willing to input their data in the Marketing Dashboard. However, was not willing to share who they were, although gave two names. Another push to businesses was executed a "How To" video was created on the system of inputting data and calls were made. Vicki reported that

Steve was going to do some door-to-door on this as well. We discussed the key token for the businesses is for them to have the data to help their own businesses and what are the spikes and the lows. Ryan asked about other ways we can get data and that is from our website traffic of analytics.

Valley Trail Update- Discussed with Erik about DART (Dover Area Recreational Trails) and the Wilmington Trails Committee. Have been working for three years to get permission to sure pack a portion of the Valley Trail. Erik will circle in with DART.

Updates:

Wilmington-Hired Dufresne Group for the South Main Street Sidewalk project. VHB is working on final design for the East Main Street Sidewalk Project. Working on an extension of Water and Wastewater District on the east side of town for redevelopment. We are holding a meeting with property owners. We are also working on two potential solar array projects; one at the Transfer Station near the old landfill and one on private property off of Route 9 West.

Dover -

Mount Snow – In expansion mode, bookings are looking okay.

Hermitage Club- Coldbrook Fire District has been paid and officially opening this weekend with 6 trails. Bachelor filming will end on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

SeVEDS/BDCC- Regionally strong demand for business expansion. Southern VT Economy Project is holding an event in early February in Londonderry on Workforce Housing.

Chamber- Eat, Sleep, Shop Local campaign happening in Wilmington through Dec 24<sup>th</sup>.

Other Business:

Vickie inquired how to get Google Maps updated as visitors are being routed over Mann Road or over Higley Hill and not getting into our town centers. This needs to be researched if it can be edited. Sharon mentioned that Bennington Chamber just did this and took a couple years to get corrected.

Is Amazon contributing to our 1% Local Option Tax Funds? We need to inquire and if not, create a campaign effort for this to be happening. Adam, Gretchen, Steve, Vicki, and Sharon will work on this.

Adjourned at 9:15 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreduk