

**Bi-Town Economic Development Committee**  
**Thursday, June 7, 2018 8:00- 9:00 AM**  
**Wilmington Town Offices**

**Attendees:** Heidi Taylor, Tom Fitzgerald, Steve Neratko, Eric Durocher, John Cleanthes, Ryan Holton, Gretchen Havreluk and Brendan McGrail by phone

**Meeting called to order:** Heidi called the meeting to order at 8:00AM

Gretchen noted the following corrections to the Minutes of May 3, 2018: under **Amazon & Airbnb 1% Local Option Tax** – Scott Tucker is not writing a letter. They are collecting from Amazon & Airbnb; **Bi-Town Marketing** – should be VCDA; **Dashboard** – should read “Dover is incorporating Dashboard participation into point system for any 1% Option Tax funds”, also should read Committee will ask for additional funding in September; **VTrans Signage** – Steve wrote a letter. Tom noted: Wilmington using Listers to do re-appraisal; will convert office to Assessor in 2020.

Gretchen made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 3, 2018 with the above corrections, Eric D seconded, all in favor.

**Amazon and Airbnb 1% Local Option Tax collection update:** Gretchen advised report in process; a 1% Local Option Tax update should be available in the first part of July and will be for the whole year.

**Act250 Update:** Gretchen advised, due to ongoing health issues, Diane Snelling continues to be unable to come to Wilmington. There is a need to develop a ‘better system’ for Act 250. Steve noted, “In Dover, up to this time, has no way of tracking Act 250 issues.” Heidi noted, “The Dover Fire Department has had to cancel a planned training burn of the Carinthia base lodge, since new the development is under Act 250.”

**Housing:** Gretchen advised the Wilmington Housing Committee is scheduled to meet Monday, June 18 at 3:30PM in the Town Offices. This meeting is to discuss issues and begin a housing analysis. Members will include Susan McMann (WRC) and the Wilmington People’s branch manager, Lynn Larson and Wilmington Community member, Claire Huntley. Steve is to put out the word for participants from Dover.

Comment [GH1]: “discuss current”

Comment [GH2]: Add: “Lynn Larson and Wilmington Community member Claire Huntley”

**Bi-Town Marketing Plan:** Eric D noted, “Artwork received today and is eye catching.” Will give updates to the Select Boards; Sharon to present in Wilmington and Eric D in Dover. The Chamber can continue to measure whom is looking at website. Article in last week’s *Valley News* was misleading; Gretchen contacted the *Valley News* and they retracted the headline. In an email to Eric D, Vickie had advised some business communicated to her they were unaware of Dashboard. Eric D noted these businesses had had face-to-face meetings and received emails. Tom noted the campaign is working, Wilmington had seen a definite uptick in people, especially in the summer.

**VTrans Signage:** Letter, map and packet are ready, will be sent to Rob Faley of District 2 and cc’d to Secretary of Transportation, Joe Flynn upon approval of Committee members.

Comment [GH3]: Faley

Comment [GH4]: Add: Secretary, Joe Flynn

**Updates: Wilmington** – Tom advised, “Tax sale coming up. Largest delinquent, \$78,000, was paid last week. Select Board has reviewed and prioritized long-term capital projects. Goal to get Water District to be part of the Town, efforts have been ongoing for a number of years; a meeting with the Water Commissioners will be held in July. Board worked on renewing liquor licenses. Gretchen noted the CEDS project did get the attention of the State at last week’s meeting with the State. The “Make it on Main Street” competition is active with a prize of \$20,000. She noted a need to develop a “Co-working Space” in

**Wilmington.** Wilmington is to sign a contract with First Light for fiber internet. It was mentioned, Consolidated Communications also provides fiber internet.

**Dover** - At Dover's Economic Development meeting, Duncan Cable advised they are looking to extend connectivity in East Dover and need assistance getting new poles installed. Steve advised they are looking for loans/grants from USDA Rural Development. At the same meeting the Dover Pastor suggested the Town develop Disc Golf Course. Dover is beginning discussions on the splitting (\$90,000) between Communication and Business Development grants. The "Do It" program, which assists with building improvements, has received 16 applications which are being scored and discussed at their next meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 26 at 6:30PM where the Select Board meets.

**Hermitage Club** – John had no updates to report. The golf course is being cut and cared for; at time an okay is received it would be able to open in ten days. Properties are being maintained.

**Chamber** – Eric D, Summer Guides are in, the digital version continues to be used. The Chamber Golf Tournament will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the Mount Snow golf course. Fireworks are scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>. Hannah Greene has assumed her position in the Chamber Office. The Chamber Social is to be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-7PM at the new site for the Gathering Place in Dover.

Gretchen and Steve presented to the Southern Vermont Economic Development Summit held at Mount Snow. Attendees were interested in how they (the Committee) got started, what they do and how long they are working together. Manchester and Dorset also presented the Arts Initiative for Bennington County. The Bennington County Chamber also now covers Manchester.

Ryan suggested considering a "good small idea" from Brattleboro; Play Dates where free babysitting is provided once a month, on varying days and times for two hours. Ryan acknowledged the WINGS program has done this for Valentine Date Nights. In Brattleboro it's done to get people into the downtown whether to do business, go to the movies, shop, etc. It was decided to put on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Heidi adjourned the meeting at 9:01AM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Barbara R. Baum/Rachels*