

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Thursday, March 7, 2019

Attendees: Vickie Capitani, Gretchen Havreluk, Heidi Taylor, Tom Fitzgerald, Eric Durocher, Steve Neratko, Ryan Holton, Erik Barnes, Brendan McGrail.

Meeting called to order: Gretchen called the meeting to order at 8:03 am. Vickie moved to approve the February 7, 2019 minutes, Eric seconded, all in favor.

Additions or changes to the agenda

The Committee discussed the need to put the Chair and Vice Char positions on the agenda for the next meeting.

Housing Committee:

Gretchen said that the Housing Committee has been meeting monthly, except for in February, and will be meeting again March 18th. Steve said that he has been working on the Request for Proposals for a consultant to assist with the Housing Study and Plan. The FRP will be ready for March 18th meeting and could be released soon after. That study will determine our current inventory, needs and implementation.

Marketing Committee:

Gretchen stated that the Committee has put out a Request for Qualifications to firms to handle our Digital Marketing Campaign. There have been 11 responses. We are currently scoring the applications and will be meeting to discuss and make a decision next week. Eric stated that there are a few that stand out at first glance.

Bi-Town Charge:

Vicki has continued to work on the membership portion, removing the Hermitage Club specifically, and replacing it with a Wilmington representative, either a resident or business owner. It was discussed that the attendance policy is an issue as there have been a few people who haven't been to a meeting in a very long time. Gretchen handed out the current charge. Brendan will take a look at the current documentation and work in the new language.

V-Tran Signs:

Steve has reached out to the VTrans office in Montpelier, and spoken with the department that handles these requests. They have stated they are willing to come

to meet with the Towns to discuss improvements to the signage program. Stevee will set up a meeting that will include Heidi, Erik and Eric.

Other Business:

Act 250 – Tom is now the new regional chair of the Act 250 board. He stated that the process of reviewing the applications is very expansive and time consuming. They have had 5 minor applications so far. Next Friday, he will be going to Montpelier for an orientation into the process. In the future there may be a state representative to help walk through the process. It was discussed that changes may be coming to the Act 250 process and that it may not be getting easier for development to occur. The process may be expanded into residential development. Gretchen asked if we should draft a letter testifying against those proposed changes. Brendan stated that he would draft a letter. Vicki asked that he reach out to Laura Sibilgia for more information regarding those changes prior to drafting the letter.

Updates:

Wilmington – Tom: Great Town Meeting, with about 200 voters. The budget passed and the Select Board reorganization meeting will be held next week. Gretchen: The next step for the Valley Trail is design work. The Maple Leaf will be opening at the end of this month. South Main Street side walk will go out to bid next week. The changes to the Tax Stabilization Policy, going from a max of 5 years to 10, were approved at Town Meeting day.

Dover – Vicki: We also had a great Town Meeting Day. The budget was approved, as was Tax Stabilization. Steve stated that the next step is for the Business and Workforce Development work group to meet and make a recommendation on a policy for the Select Board. Steve: The nine Trails and Recreational Venue Plan RFP's have been received, reviewed and scored. Two consultant firms were asked to meet and present to the steering group. One of those will be hired by the end of the month, and tasked with developing a strategic implementation plan for the next 25 years of trails and recreation within Dover.

Mount Snow – Erik: It has been a solid year this year. There has been an uptick in traffic recently. There is an event scheduled for each weekend in March. They plan to stay open until the 2nd week of April. They are currently undergoing capital project planning.

Hermitage Club – It was discussed that at least three organizations have been working to acquire the property.

Chamber – The ski to stay program was held recently and was seen as a success. There are a number of events that they are working on including the Craft Beer and Chili Stroll on March 29th. Fireworks will be held on July 6th this year. March 21st is the Chamber Town Hall Meeting.

Next meeting: April 4 at Wilmington Town Office
Eric Made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Brendan. Meeting adjourned at 9:04.