

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Wilmington Town Offices
Thursday, April 4, 2019

Attendees: Heidi Taylor, Vickie Capitani, Gretchen Havreluk, Tom Fitzgerald, Eric Durocher, Brendan McGrail, Ryan Holton, Adam Grinold. **In addition:** Lauren Harkawik, Scott Tucker.

Meeting called to order:

Heidi called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Election of Officers:

Vicki nominated Chair, Gretchen seconded. All in favor. Vicki nominated Eric Durocher Vice-Chair. Tom seconded. All in favor.

Minutes:

Heidi moved to accept minutes of March 7 as amended. Eric seconded. All in favor.

Bi-Town Charge:

Gretchen moved that the committee meet on the first Thursday of every month, Vicki seconded. All in favor. Adam Grinold from the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) explained his meeting conflicts since he is in Montpelier on Thursdays. He was suggesting that Christy Betit could be his alternate and to add her to the email list for notifications of meetings so she stays in the loop of what is happening at meetings. **Eric made a motion to approve the Charge with changes. Tom seconded. All in favor. Charge will be presented to the Selectboards for approval at upcoming meetings.**

Housing:

Gretchen discussed bid outstanding to complete housing analysis by May 1. Anna Marie Pluhar Founder and Author of Sharing Housing will attend an upcoming meeting.

Marketing Committee:

Eric: 50% of funds has been received from both towns; chose "Trampoline" out of 11 submissions to handle digital marketing this summer. Meeting next Wednesday with the Trampoline reps. Gretchen explained scoring criteria and Trampoline was the "best bang for our buck." Eric noted they also provided examples of how they would proceed with marketing. Adam noted a regional marketing meeting (Mt. Monadnock) on 4/17, adding

importance of small groups. Gretchen: will approach VTrans contact for signage on Route 9. When people use google maps to get to Dover area and they are coming over Route 9 they take Augur Hole Road to Higley Hill Road. We are trying to get VTrans to put up signs near this intersection saying Ski Mountains with an arrow pointing to continue on Route 9. A bus was stuck in the mud last week because the GPS took him that way.

Other Business:

Mount Snow: Eric: well-attended recent legislative breakfast went well; reviewed visit to New York, people are very interested in our area because of location. We're in good shape. Craft Room Chili Stroll in March.

Wilmington: Tom: hired two police officers 1 full time, part-time, another expected in June. Re-write on tax stabilization plan: an incentive for businesses to purchase buildings and renovate them making the tax evaluation increase. They apply for Tax Stabilization and they pay at the current evaluation and then increases year over year up to 10 years then it is at 100% of the increased evaluation. Only on the Town tax side does not include the education tax. Recycling costing a fortune; no payback. Letter going out pull the plug on the bins, all trash will go to landfill. Ryan: increase hours? Committee will look into that. Tom: going back to single-stream. Philadelphia burning everything. Vicki: single stream recycling is the right thing to do. Transporter is currently TAM and deemed too expensive.

Wilmington (cont): Gretchen noted that the Maple Leaf will be opening at the end of April. Beginning of south street construction bids going out, hope to complete by July 1. The DRB hearing continued on moving forward to develop the former Wilmington Home Center, hope to begin construction in July. The plan is to develop apartments, possible brewery, not dinner and cocktails. Parking: funding has been received from Selectboard. There will be temporary parking on Beaver Street where the recycling bins are located now and extend to 60 spots behind the former high school. There will be solar lights for the path. Adam: need to look 15 years down the line for resources to fund professional police and fire departments. Vicki noted town voted funding for a bunker (sleeping quarters) at the police station.

Dover: Trail assessment being done by experts. The BDCC is hosting Southern Vermont Economic Summit on May 30th; expecting higher attendance; nominations welcome. Legislature: liabilities for chemical usage (PFA's). Many items including pizza boxes are contaminated with PFA's. How do we deal with that? Work force legislation around internships, trying to vote on Act 250 this session. Brendan will do a letter to our state legislators (John Gannon, Laura Sibilia, Becca Baliant, Jeanette White) regarding the ACT 250 legislation that has been proposed. Gretchen: there is also legislation @ short-term rentals (air B&Bs). Inns are concerned with popularity of air BB's that are not affected by same regulations. Restaurants are negatively affected and Gretchen noted stress on good housing available for residents.

Chamber: Eric: Chili Stroll last Friday was held in conjunction with brewers' festival. Chamber would like to see the event moved to warmer weather. BDCC ranking projects and meeting soon. Legislative level: convince legislature to hang on to our health insurance: VACE Ins.com for businesses that are members of the chamber can access health care insurance through the chamber then referred to the Richards Group.

Next meeting: at Wilmington Town Office on May 2, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

Gretchen moved to adjourn at 9:01 Heidi seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Donaghue