

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Town Office
Thursday, November 7, 2019

Members present: Heidi Taylor, Vicki Capitani, Christy Betit (for BDCC), Gretchen Havreluk, Ashley Havreluk (for Mount Snow), Steve Neratko, Ryan Holton

Also present: Christine Howe, Lauren Harkawik, Shannon Wheeler, Mike Tuller

Meeting called to order at 8:03 am

- I. Introduction of Wilmington Zoning Administrator & Health Officer; Mike Tuller
- II. Motion by Heidi to approve September minutes.
 - a. No quorum of those in attendance in September so will add to December agenda
- III. Housing Committee:
 - a. December 1st extension of survey due to poor response. Around 175 responses; we were hoping for 300.
 - b. November 18th at 6:30pm in the Old School Community Center will be a joint Selectboard presentation. It is a public warned meeting and Camoin Associates will be presenting their findings and their implementation plan.
 - c. This Monday we should receive a final report from Camoin; we will share with this group.
 - d. Gretchen personally invited Elizabeth Bridgewater from Windham & Windsor Housing Trust to the November 18th event and an email will be sent to all stakeholders in the process inviting them to join us.
- IV. Marketing Committee:
 - a. Summer campaign has just finished. We will review with joint Selectboards once the State posts this quarter's lodging and meals tax data.
 - b. This was a different campaign from years past. Consultants Trampoline Design worked with us. No one here probably saw the ads which was supposed to happen.
 - c. We will present an update to this group to show you the ads and data and will try to prepare for next meeting; we would need about 15 minutes on the agenda.
- V. VTrans Signs/Marlboro Meeting:
 - a. Steve attended this and spoke to secretary of VTrans, Mike Flynn specifically about the signs we wanted. It has been about a year since we started this process. He stated he thought we should be able to add to existing signs and didn't understand the disconnect of the local office not wanting to do additional signs. Resent him maps and photos of sign locations and information from these meetings. Steve hasn't heard back yet but checked in again this week.
 - b. Christy provided some details Adam sent her with: Putney did something similar but convinced with AOT with the Chamber of Commerce and the Town. BDCC will help by reaching out to legislators and would be happy to pay for and install the sign. Gretchen stated this was such a reversal of initial email responses we've had. Christy stated an alternative is a decorative sign placed 25 feet from midline with landowner approval could be used. Discussion that this felt too far off to the side; drivers wouldn't see it at night. We just need a ski areas sign prior to Auger Hole Rd. Last mud season a bus got stuck on the road. There is a legal load limit sign but you don't see it until you are already on the road with no where to turn around.
 - c. This was a long meeting with mostly Marlboro related issues like the passing lane in front of Marlboro school. The side from Wilmington to Brattleboro has a long term plan for reconstruction. Some discussion on Winter maintenance. A few discussed taking Route 9 back from the state and how they could refuse truck traffic that way but those discussions didn't go anywhere.

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VI. Other Business:

- a. Dover representation at this meeting: Steve reached out to both Brendan and Laura. Laura did think she would be here today. At best she will only make half the meetings, she also thought she was placed on this committee as a BDCC alternate and not as the Dover town rep. We haven't heard back from Brendan. Decided that we did need to look for two new Dover reps. Heidi reached out to Erik Barnes to find out who his alternates would be since neither Laurie Newton nor Dick Deutsch are working at the resort. While he didn't reply he did send Ashley on his behalf today.
- b. Ryan asked for an update on the Valley Trail shore packing issue. Gretchen has completed a letter writing to gain more funding. Waiting for Mount Snow to finalize the plan for rerouting the Wilmington side of the Valley Trail. Once we have that we can go to Act 250 and AR and hope it's a streamlined approval. Will work with Wilmington trails committee to complete the reroutes. Mount Snow is committed to the project; even under new ownership.

VII. Wilmington updates:

- a. Selectboard meeting December 3 will include a hearing on the river corridor ordinance which has been a heated topic. All property owners affected by this have received postcards. Some residents have stopped in to discuss.
- b. The sidewalk project is about complete with just a few lighting issues to finish.
- c. East Main Street will be in construction next summer.
- d. We have been notified we are one of the towns sited for electric charging stations. We would have to commit 3 spaces in our park and ride area. It is an 80/20 grant.
- e. Yesterday's news of Marlboro College closing at the end of the year is really sad news and a big challenge for the people of Wilmington. Concert series is up in the air.
- f. We are still working on and getting close to the merger/acquisition of the water and sewer districts. That will be coming forth around town meeting time for a vote.

VIII. Dover updates:

- a. We have new owners at the Lodge at Mount Snow – they are a boutique company out of Baltimore. The sale was all over partly due to North Branch Fire District.
- b. The town is looking at hiring a new appraiser for all commercial properties before residential properties. Lots of questions on that.
- c. The 50 acre parcel that the town purchased for trails was officially named Horace Hill at this week's Selectboard meeting. Horace Earle was the last person to sugar on the site. New signs will be going up in the coming weeks. SoVTA has been working in there prepping temporary trails for this Winter. New signage also going into the Town Forest to help clarify.
- d. Our next Selectboard meeting will happen at 6pm at Town Hall as a special event with our trails and venue consultants, Weston & Sampson, giving a presentation on where we are now and suggestions for the future. This is a very important meeting with presentation and discussion; please attend if you can.
- e. Our year-round concert series and open mic nights continue; next Wednesday, November 13 is the 2nd open mic night.

IX. Mount Snow updates:

- a. Trying to open this weekend depending on temperatures today. If we don't open this weekend will open Thursday next week. Once we open, we remain open so need to ensure a solid surface to start.

X. SeVeds updates:

- a. Annual meeting tonight – food, drink, dancing.

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- b. Hospitality trainings this weekend at Mount Snow including a supervisor bootcamp. Northern VT University credential for these.
- c. First time homebuyers program soon.
- d. Stay to stay happening in February.
- e. High school programs at Twin Valley are busy. Starting career spotlight series - employers coming in to talk to and interview students. If local employers need people they can do speaker series, tours, ride alongs etc with the program. J-Turn career intensive and interview skills and financial literacy. Career expo in spring.

XI. Next meeting December 5th.

XII. Motion to adjourn by Heidi at 8:43 am, seconded by Steve.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economist Development Assistant, Town of Dover