

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Thursday June 9, 2016 8:00-9:00 am
Dover Town Offices

Agenda

Attendance: John Cleanthes, Kelly Pawlak, Adam Grinold, Ken Black , Randy Terk, Heidi Taylor, Gretchen Havreluk, Pat Weisbrich, Scott Murphy, Ryan Holton, and Mike Quinn

Meeting called to order at 8:07am

Approve minutes from last meeting. Randy moved 2nd by Heidi Passed

Elect Officers- Held over to next meeting

RCDI USDA Grant

Adam Grinold presented information on the grant that the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation received last August in the amount of \$460,000 with a 50% match through Windham County Economic Development Program and Bennington County. These funds in part would be used to employ one person for 2 years to create a network and a strong organization of the identified 120 people that are working on economic development in southern Vermont. The network could help for cost sharing on like projects in trainings, workforce, etc. The other portion is to fund non-profit and municipal organizations that are in Low to Moderate Income communities. They will be launching in August/September. The completed application is on the website and will be creating a summary of the grant.

LMI map Link: <http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/ACCD/tab/>

Bi-Town Marketing Plan

Progress/Update

The committee updated both select boards in May on the progress of the digital marketing campaign. Working on updating the digital ads with new photographs and working with a company to create a dashboard for Valley businesses to report number of transactions for retailers, number of rooms booked for lodging and number of seats for restaurants on a weekly basis. We hope to be having businesses reporting by August.

Valley Trail Update

Progress/Update- Gretchen shared the Windham Regional Commission Data

Surepacking- Unsure where that stands currently.

Ken will contact Jeff at WRC for cost estimate for the counters.

Maintenance- Ryan asked about a maintenance policy for the Valley Trail. The trail needs mowing prior to the July 4th holiday weekend. There are costs associated with regular maintenance and could be shared expenses. The trail is important for both communities economic growth. Scott will get a joint Dover and Wilmington select board meeting together.

Telecommunications

Dover is working on an estimate/proposal for expanding broadband up to 1 Gig for the entire town through Fairpoint Communications. Ken is presenting the proposal to the Select board on the 21st. Fiber is available along Route 100. Every year Mount Snow is adding to their bandwidth as it continues to be not adequate year over year.

Updates:

Wilmington- Waste Water Treatment Infrastructure project is moving along and near completion. Community Garden is open with 6 plots that are planted with a capacity of 20 participants. Sidewalk projects are moving along.

Dover - Starting Dorr Fitch to Mount Snow Marketplace sidewalk project on June 23rd and slated to finish early fall. The scoping study has been completed for the sidewalk from Dorr Fitch to Toll gate Plaza and waiting for approval on a grant. Scoping study almost complete for the shared use path and streetlights from Dover Park to the firehouse. The firm has been chosen for a scoping study for the Firehouse to the South Access road of Mount Snow. Sidewalk plan is long range out to 2020. Concerts in the park are starting July 3rd.

Mount Snow – Waiting on EB5 money to be released. West Lake is built and working on filling the 50 foot deep lake. This summer they will be building an inflatable dam, the piping will be placed from West Lake to the Hermitage and building 3 pump houses. The goal is to use the lake for snowmaking this winter; however it may not be filled in time. Ski Bubba is now down and they are replacing with a magic carpet. Everyone is excited to be moving ahead. The summer is strong with many corporate events and weddings being booked.

Hermitage Club- Working to finalize the Act 250 master plan by mid-July or early August. Unfortunately it is holding up new construction permits. Lodging is booked from now to the middle of October for weddings. The White house and Hermitage Inn are open for lodging and dining and the golf course. They have decided not to do fireworks on the 4th of July as there are so many in the valley that weekend. The White House and Hermitage Inn are open to public.

Sveds- Industry leaders are meeting regularly in the following business clusters: healthcare, manufacturing, tech and green building, hospitality.

Chamber- None given

Other Business:

The Workforce Development Committee is meeting on Thursday June 16th at 10am at the Wilmington Town Offices to meet with workforce organizations throughout the region.

Next month's meeting is being changed July 14th due to the holiday.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen M. Havreluk