

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee

Draft Minutes

Thursday September 5, 2019

Wilmington Town Offices

Meeting was called to order at 8:07am. Those in attendance Tom Fitzgerald, Vickie Capitani, Heidi Taylor, Steve Neratko, Eric Durocher, Christine Howe, Christy Betit Christine agreed to take minutes, Steve explained he had hired an assistant and moving forward that person would be the minute taker at these meetings.

1. Additions or changes to agenda: None
2. Approve Minutes: Not sent so therefore no approval
3. Bi-Town Charge: Removed for discussion
4. Housing committee: The committee met last month. Sept 26 5:30-6:30 pm will be an Open House at the Old High School. There are times available with consultants, even throughout the day. Steve will send a schedule and anyone that wants to meet with them please let Steve know and he will schedule a time. It will be advertised as well. Vickie got info regarding house sharing but consultant said to wait for results of the study before moving forward with that information. Steve had a draft of questions that the housing committee will review before going to the public.
5. Marketing Committee: Eric said there was no meeting last month, but the chamber is still seeing engagement with new graphics etc. There has been an uptick in people coming thought the chamber sit, he will have more info to bring back to the select board. Tom is impressed with the new marketing company. Eric explained the State wanted to piggyback on the marketing because they were impressed as well, however the nominal revenue contribution compared to what they requested of the chamber in return was not equitable and therefore the Chamber declined.
6. VTrans Signs: There has not been much movement, Steve said he continually reaches out to the state and has not been able to make much progress. The state is pushing the brown business signs, more than the ski signs. Heidi spoke to the fire chief in Marlboro and was trying to get the select board to do something if the state will not, could the town put up the signs. The town has offered to pay for the signs for "ski areas" but still have not had luck with the state.
7. Other Business: None
8. Updates:
 - a. Wilmington; Tom said town hired a zoning admin and is promoting from within for road superintendent. The road super had no outside applicants. The admin for the road super is a negative factor.
 - b. Dover; Vickie said Dover approved the tax stabilization policy. This means if someone pays the fee and goes through the process, it goes to voters on case by case basis, and will require special town meetings. If they start at zero and it would increase 10% each year for 10 years. Dover tabled the community ordinance. Steve hired an assistant, as already stated. There will be a fall, winter, spring concert series at the Town Hall from 6-

8pm beginning Wed Sept. 18. Dover has finalized the purchase of the 48 acres in town, with the plan to have some temporary uses this year.

- c. SeVEDS; Christie (?) has been attending select board meetings, launching pipelines and pathways in schools. This focuses on introducing other options to students, like manufacturing. They teach some basic communication skills etc. to students and bring them to locations to introduce them to other options for careers after high school. There will be a press push for this program as well.
- d. Mount Snow; Eric Barnes was not present
- e. Chamber; Eric discussed with Steve moving forward with the combined trail maps for Wilmington and Dover to be on the same map. Eric will reach out to the map designer; Steve will get the info to Eric. The Chamber Golf Tourney is September 16th, Monday if anyone wants to golf send the info to Eric. Thursday the 19th is the Chamber social at MLT (Maple Leaf Tavern) Friday the 20th is Soup and Stroll 5-7 pm downtown. Saturday 21 10-5 at Mount Snow is grand tasting for wine and harvest festival. Double in ticket sales than at the same time last year. Can always use volunteers.

9. Next Meeting is October 3rd at 8AM.

Meeting adjourned 8:48 am