

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Town Office
Thursday, October 3, 2019

Members present: Heidi Taylor, Gretchen Havreluk, Ryan Holton, Steve Neratko, Vicki Capitani

Also present: Christine Howe, Lauren Harkawik, Shannon Wheeler

No quorum; meeting opened with discussion at 8:08 am

I. Members not attending meetings:

- a. Dover representatives have not been in attendance; per by laws if you miss 3 meetings in a row you can be removed. Let's reach out to them and say we're going to look for a new representative.
- b. The vetting process for members is good. It doesn't help in the short term to reach quorum but in the long run we should have great membership.
- c. Erik Barnes did say he would be here today. He needs to designate someone else in his place from the resort as our other contacts on the list Dick Deutsch and Laurie Newton are no longer there.

II. Housing Committee:

- a. The Bi-Town housing meeting on September 26 was well attended. 28 attendees with good conversations; it could have gone on longer than an hour. A mix of young families, seniors and the real estate community. Lots of different perspectives. An attendee reached out to Steve as an agent for a builder looking to develop affordable single-family homes and he met with them Tuesday. It did end up being property actually located in Wilmington so he is unable to be of much help to them but they are very interested in the area and being able to help. All ideas at the meeting mentioned needing to be serviced by the Moover; we should include you on interview day. There was a landlord in attendance that is thinking of taking one of their units off AirBNB and renting it long term because the market is flooded.
- b. The survey link now has an end date of 10/15 for this information gathering to encourage more responses. There were 19 completed and 3 paper surveys from the meeting were entered at this point.
- c. October 21 for the Bi-Town housing committee regular meeting the consulting firm will be presenting preliminary data from the surveys and conducting additional interviews.
- d. One thing that hasn't been discussed much is current homeowners having trouble remaining in their homes due to disrepair. Not necessarily seniors, a mix of households. What programs are out there to help – SEVCA, Windham & Windsor – maybe we need to have a resident guide put together to give resources. Work with banks to see what their process is, one caller was unable to secure a loan.

III. Adjournment at 8:41am - Next meeting November 7.