

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom
Thursday, May 6, 2021

Members present: Gretchen Havreluk, Vicki Capitani, Eric Durocher, Heidi Taylor, Ethan Schoonmaker, Ashley Havreluk, Adam Grinold, Bill Benneyan, Christine Howe, Tom Fitzgerald

Also present: Shannon Wheeler, Scott Tucker, Meg Staloff, Ann Manwaring

Meeting called to order at 8:02 am

- I. Additions or changes to the agenda:
 - a. Gretchen invited Ann Manwaring to give an update on DVFiberr
- II. Approve minutes from the April 1st meeting
 - a. Motion to approve by Gretchen, seconded by Eric. All approve.
- III. Deerfield Valley resiliency team
 - a. Gretchen: met once this month regarding a grant program request from both Selectboards and decided to hold off on that until we see what comes down the pike for available Federal funding.
- IV. DV Fiber Update:
 - a. Ann Manwaring: Now 24 member towns in DVFiber, many Deerfield Valley towns have large parts of town without service. Wilmington and Dover have good service for parts of the town but no coverage for others. RFP issued 6 weeks ago - we need to partner with a provider for pre-engineering, engineering & design, construction, an operator of the network built and an ISP. While this is happening we have to develop our customer base. There are 2 viable entities from the RFP to help us with all aspects. We are hoping for Federal funding to help move us along the this track. House passed H360 with how that will happen.
- V. Our Growing Communities – Zoning:
 - a. WRC held a good webinar about changing zoning towards conservation subdivision – preserving views and habitats when subdividing land for development. Wilmington has been working on Senior housing and changing density to help that while meeting Fair Housing Act guidelines.
- VI. Housing Committee:
 - a. Met last month, working on finding state and federal level available funding. Met with Granicus on regulation of short term rentals in the area. Nothing like the State’s original bill but something to look into.
- VII. Marketing Committee:
 - a. Working on final job description for marketing manager. Brand development RFP went out and due back May 17. Photography and videography RFPs are going out soon.
- VIII. Other Business:
 - a. Walgreens: Eric had 2 calls from local residents with complaints on lack of inventory and pharmacy service.
- IX. Wilmington updates:
 - a. Tom: finished our Civil Authority hearings after 5 and a half months. Groundbreaking happened for the public safety facility. Looking at opening our facilities in July.
 - b. Gretchen: presented the final feasibility study to expand wastewater/water service to Ballou Hill on Tuesday. Looking for grants for this project to aid property owners. Hired Dufresne group for design and engineering for N Main St sidewalks, granite curbing and lighting on both sides. E Main St project has been challenging between the State and engineer. Poles need to be moved so we are working on easements. Hopeful to be in construction next summer. No construction this summer except on the public safety facility.

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X. Dover updates:

- a. Vicki: ready for pretown meeting Tuesday at Town Hall where we had Fiber installed the other day there. Our SB is meeting in person at the office with public zooming. Town Meeting Tuesday 5/18 at Carinthia Lodge with voting. We have one contested race for Selectboard. VTrans moved quickly and no parking signs will be installed this summer around Snow Republic/ Twice Blessed. The Gathering Place in Dover is closing. Pupil weighting study has gained some traction and is moving along.
- b. Eric: New town website is coming along. Municipal project manager and engineers have connected on Valley Trail A- and that project is once again moving forward. Summer concert series have been booked.

XI. Mount Snow updates:

- a. Ashley: Summer operations have been announced: golf course, scenic chairlift and mountain biking will be offered. Bullwheel, Canned and Fairways restaurants will be operating this summer in more capacity than last year. Following state guidance to begin hosting weddings and Fall festivals. Broke ground on new Mountain Ops building and have an Act 250 in for improving stormwater. Filed for a 1 year Act 250 Master Plan extension due to Covid.

XII. Hermitage Club updates:

- a. Bill: Membership grew 35%, will spend summer working on facilities as we didn't have much time last year before opening came. Looking towards this coming winter with 200-250 employees. We're looking to keep the club intimate so maybe 40-50 new members to keep up with our five year plan.

XIII. BDCC Updates:

- a. Adam: We have hired a small business development person in the office. Welcoming Communities now has a full time staff member devoted to that. Welcome Wagon continues, looking for assistance statewide in staffing their programs. CDBG-DR – sole proprietor grants still have funding available. SeVEDS is almost through Town Meeting process, all meetings held so far have approved SeVEDS requests. SoVT Economy Summit held virtually next week, about 100-150 attendees registered at this point.

XIV. Chamber Update:

- a. Ethan: Events & marketing position candidates have been coming in with interviews today. Fireworks happening 7/3 at Mount Snow, rain date of 7/4. Wine & Harvest planning happening. Golf Tournament registration is open. New annual sponsorship program for members. New website underway, meeting again Monday on this, believe it will be complete early June.

XV. Moover Update:

- a. Christine: Back to regular operations with capacity limits and mask requirements. Desperate need of drivers, starting a big recruitment push.

XVI. Next meeting June 3rd.

XVII. Motion to adjourn by Christine at 9:00 am, seconded by Gretchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover