

**Bi-Town Economic Development Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**via Zoom & Wilmington Town Offices**  
**Thursday, August 5, 2021**

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Members present: Gretchen Havreeluk, Bill Benneyan, Vicki Capitani, Christine Howe, Tracy Bartels, Heidi Taylor (arrival at 8:05)

Members present via Zoom: Eric Durocher

Also present: Shannon Wheeler, Scott Tucker

**Meeting called to order at 8:03 am by Vice Chair Eric**

- I. Additions or changes to the agenda:
  - a. *Welcome Bill as an official voting member*
- II. Approve minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - a. Motion to approve by Vicki, seconded by Tracy. All approve.
- III. Housing Committee:
  - a. Met to discuss possible short term registration process as presented by Granicus.
  - b. Upcoming online info courses on shared housing with Annamarie Pluhar that Sue Rand is helping organize. First course is free and we've been offered discounts on the followup course for attendees.
  - c. Eric and Gretchen did an interview and tour with VPR on Wilmington zoning changes and BiTown report and area housing needs and changes.
  - d. Meeting next Wednesday with a full agenda.
- IV. Marketing Committee: **Heidi resumed control of meeting at this item upon her earlier arrival**
  - a. Branding RFPs closed and we chose Trampoline Design that we have worked with in the past. Kickoff meeting held and they are working on this project now.
  - b. Tim Shannon, Chamber Board Member will be the Chamber member after Ethan's departure.
  - c. Meg Staloff from Wilmington Works joined us a few months ago as well.
  - d. Working on videography and photography RFP.
- V. DV Fiber Update:
  - a. DV Fiber has officially hired Great Works Internet who is partnering with ValleyNet to build out this project. State and Federal funding available due to pandemic should speed up the phased planning. We expect cost to be around \$75 monthly with phone available as well.
  - b. Up to 28 member towns and moving to an Executive Board rather than a Governing Board.
- VI. Other Business:
  - a. Walgreens Local Job Fair:
    - i. Gretchen reached out to BDCC on this and there are just no attendees for job fairs of any kind right now. They suggested a fun event job fair like games on Hayford Field, but that's a heavy lift.
    - ii. This is across the board not just service industry locally – restaurants are closing/closed due to such a shortage. The hope is in Fall when extra Federal unemployment income ends there will be an uptick in those seeking work.
    - iii. Discussion about a digital ad linking jobs and housing suggested by Charlie Foster and how that might work and who would spearhead it.
  - b. Remote/In-Person Meetings Discussion
    - i. Discussion on if we should continue remote access or only meet in person?
- VII. Wilmington updates:
  - a. Scott: still building Public Safety, rains slowing down but moving well. Old Home Week this week, registration open this afternoon. Old School hosting many events and parade Saturday.

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- b. Gretchen: Water merger officially finalized, met with State/VTrans on their strategic planning for Route 9. Signed lease at the Old School for daycare opening this Fall. Juice bar opening in Vermont House, AlpenGlow has opened as well.

**VIII. Dover updates:**

- a. Vicki: Also discussing water and it's a big project so we'll see where that goes. There were Blueberry Festival events in Dover but not well advertised.
- b. Eric: BDCC loan program is finalized. New Town of Dover website is almost completed. Dover Launch Business Plan Competition is opening for applications Monday. Thank you to Gretchen & Meg for sharing the framework of that.

**IX. Mount Snow updates:**

- a. Tracy: rebuilding mountain ops building. Seeing some great biking and scenic chairlift rides and actively planning for Winter. Minimum wage is \$15 for all entry level positions and reevaluating the remainder of staff. Using Snow Lake and company owned and leased properties for international and other staff housing. Brewers Festival and Oktoberfest happening only Saturdays. Ticket Sales will be limited.

**X. Hermitage Club updates:**

- a. Bill: starting our maintenance building in October. Chamonix Village in construction with Winter opening for those facilities. Looking at prior Master Plan. Improving snowmaking and growing on staff size and membership. Magic Carpet going in in Fall as well.

**XI. BDCC Updates: *None in attendance***

**XII. Chamber Update: *None in attendance***

**XIII. Moover Update:**

- a. Christine: in major recruitment mode, we need about 20 drivers to get all the routes going. Now offering \$25 an hour for seasonal drivers. Had a push in Bellows Falls and Brattleboro so we've picked up a few drivers and reopened the Brattleboro routes completely this past Monday.

**XIV. Next meeting September 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**XV. Motion to adjourn by Gretchen at 8:56 am, seconded by Vicki.**

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler  
Economic Development, Town of Dover