

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, October 7, 2021

Members present: Heidi Taylor, Gretchen Havreluk, Tracy Bartels, Bill Benneyan, Laura Sibia, Charlie Foster

Members present via Zoom: Eric Durocher, Vicki Capitani, Christine Howe

Also present: Jessica Lee Smith

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Meg Staloff, Ravi Shimpi

Meeting called to order at 8:02 am by Chair Heidi

- I. Additions or changes to the agenda: *None*
- II. Approve minutes from September 2nd meeting
 - a. Motion to approve by Tracy, seconded by Gretchen. All approve.
- III. Housing Committee Update:
 - a. Eric: did not meet last month, moved this month's meeting to October 20 to accommodate members and so Gretchen can attend housing summit in Arlington. Gretchen is hoping Jenny Hyslop, Housing Director from the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, will join while on a visit to the Valley. They are the committee that decides where funding goes – like what The Hermitage and Mount Snow pay into each year that does not come back locally. Funding has to come through Windham Windsor Housing Trust and they have been focused on other areas.
 - b. Sue Westa from Windham Regional Commission sent info on upcoming housing webinars – October 27, November 10 and December 1.
- IV. Marketing Committee Update:
 - a. State has put out notice for marketing grant through Dept of Tourism. We will apply for digital marketing, although we have not been successful in the past. RFQ for videography and photography, 7 responses received. One was well outside budget but we contracted with all 6 of the remaining as they had different viewpoints and styles. Received 17 applications for the BiTown Marketing Director position and we have narrowed it down to 5 to interview via zoom on October 19 and then in person for the top 2 or 3 candidates.
- V. DV Fiber Update:
 - a. Meeting regularly, ready to access state funding. Hoping to complete phase 1 and 2 at the same time if that funding is received. Have moved to an executive board from individual member towns voting.
- VI. Other Business
 - a. Local Job Fair:
 - i. Eric will look at software for job/housing postings and update next month
- VII. Wilmington update:
 - a. Safety building moving along, feel they'll catch up.
- VIII. Dover update:
 - a. Put some pressure on paving company to come as they were about to break contract. There is no road paint to be had for this year.
 - b. New Town of Dover website is live, 12 applicants to Dover Launch business plan competition. Judges have narrowed to 5 semifinalists and are working on their final business plans which are due October 27. 3 Finalists will present on November 18. Trails grants have been extended due to number of applicants and we won't hear back now until November.
- IX. Mount Snow update:

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, October 7, 2021

- a. Oktoberfest on Saturday. Hiring fair on October 16 at Carinthia, there is housing for some positions. Working on winter operating plans. Those dining indoors this winter will need to wear masks and show proof of vaccination. Capital investment for two new lifts for next year are in the works, started permitting process this summer.
- X.** Hermitage Club update:
 - a. Capital projects remain on pace, lift inspections are done. All about hiring and recruiting right now. Mid December opening date.
- XI.** BDCC update:
 - a. New Capital Investment grant from ACCD. BDCC has received 2 recent awards - Pipelines and Pathways Program and COVID recovery work. Another State technical assistance grant for \$3-5k per business coming in next months. Southern Vermont Summit coming up. Welcome communities project working with CASP and ECDC which has hired a director for Brattleboro office and have tentative approval for up to 75 refugees here next year and up to 10 Afghan parolees.
- XII.** Chamber update:
 - a. Wine & Harvest - about 1500 festival attendees, had 32 vs 75 average vendors. Starting November 1 we will be open Thursday-Monday. Still working on reorganizing chamber. New website launched September 1.
- XIII.** Moover update:
 - a. Providing. New regular service to Butterfield Common. Recruiting has gone well, we should be able to reinstate all routes. Looking for operations manager in Rockingham. New brochures being printed with new schedule.
- XIV.** Next meeting November 4. Will work on technology for next meeting.
- XV.** Motion to adjourn by Eric at 8:50 am, seconded by Gretchen

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover