

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, November 4, 2021

Members present: Gretchen Havreluk, Heidi Taylor, Christine Howe, Bill Benneyan

Members present via Zoom: Eric Durocher, Vicki Capitani, Tracy Bartels, Adam Grinold

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Meg Staloff

Meeting called to order at 8:05 am by Chair Heidi

- I. Additions or changes to the agenda: *None*
- II. Approve minutes from November 4th meeting
 - a. Motion to approve by Bill, seconded by Eric. Christine abstained. Motion approved.
- III. Housing Committee Update:
 - a. Met last month, business survey moving forward. Working on seeking where that Act 250 money is going, working on a letter to approve next meeting to send out. Continued talk on creating a housing trust.
- IV. Marketing Committee Update:
 - a. Received photo/videography content from those contracts. Hired Tim Dolan as our Marketing Director out of a narrowed pool of 5 candidates. Interviewed 3 finalists and it was a difficult choice between he and another candidate. Working on finalizing Tim's contract and getting him on board.
- V. DV Fiber Update:
 - a. Gretchen met with the service provider GWI along with Chair Ann Manwaring. They are in the area and working on setting up substations in each of the member towns. Hopeful for phase 1 build to begin in summer.
- VI. Other Business:
 - a. Facebook Housing Page for Job opportunities:
 - i. Need to get word out businesses can share to this for jobs. Gretchen will get page shared in Chamber and Town newsletter. Meg will share in Wilmington Works email and Eric in next Dover business newsletter.
- VII. Wilmington update:
 - a. Gretchen read an update from Scott: construction moving along, budgeting season in full swing. Mask and Ray Hill thru traffic ordinances on next meeting agenda.
 - b. Gretchen: North Main St streetscape work going to happen with VTrans grant. Dufresne Group has sent preliminary plans. Public meeting 12/14 to comment on plans to engineer. Selectboard has had preliminary ARPA funding discussions. Hoping for a public meeting on how to use these funds. A quarter of the Beaver St art project has been installed, thank you to Meg for pushing along to make this project happen. AARP grant funding Winterplace again this year. Meg was able to purchase 2 Solo Bonfire Stoves and stands that will be used there this winter and can then be used in other places in town. Winterplace Festival planned for MLK weekend including an ice carver.
- VIII. Dover update:
 - a. Vicki: starting our budget process this afternoon with department head meeting. Still dealing with PFAS water issue, I think more towns will be dealing with this soon. Last 1% payment info came in and we are ahead of that quarter 2019.
 - b. Eric: Dover Launch Business Plan Competition winner selected 11/18: The Dover Lounge; indoor golf/other sport simulators accompanied by food and beverage. Submitted our full ERSA trails

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grant for Town Forest projects and should hear by end of month. Very productive meeting with the Town, USFS and SoVTA regarding the Ridge Trail project for backcountry skiing and accessible trails. Thank you Meg, again moving Eat, Sleep, Shop Local into Dover.

IX. Mount Snow update:

- a. Opened on Friday, 11/26 with 6 trails, expanding to 18 this weekend. Summit Lodge requires vaccination. Main Base Lodge has two entrances depending on status. Masks required in all indoor spaces. J1s are arriving daily. Carinthia Lodge will be open this weekend.

X. Hermitage Club update:

- a. December 11 opening on schedule, good snowmaking gains. Membership growth ahead of pace; now over 300 members. J1s starting to arrive Sunday. Working on a seasonal relationship with Lake Champlain club where their workers come here now and return there in Spring. Running a dedicated employee shuttle.

XI. BDCC update: *No update*

XII. Chamber update:

- a. Annual board meeting held a few weeks ago: Charlie Foster elected President; Rich Caplan Vice President; Lynn Larson Treasurer; and Tim Shannon Secretary. Adding Tim Dolan to the Executive Board. Planning for reorganization on the 2023 seasons. Dues letters will be going out soon, planning on hiring a full time executive director but changing position to more events. Hoping for businesses to rejoin for this year as those changes happen. Chili/Craft/Beer Stroll April 1st to go along with Mount Snow Winter Brewer's Fest.

XIII. Moover update:

- a. Started Mount Snow last weekend with full condo routes and many new drivers. Extended evening service will begin in a few weeks for the Winter season to April.

XIV. Next meeting January 6.

XV. Motion to adjourn by Bill at 8:42 am, seconded by Gretchen

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover