

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, January 6, 2022

Members present: Heidi Taylor, Gretchen Havreluk, Tracy Bartels, Adam Grinold, Charlie Foster

Members present via Zoom: Vicki Capitani, Eric Durocher

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Scott Tucker

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

- I. Approve minutes from December 2nd:
 - a. Motion to approve by Tracy, seconded by Eric. Motion approved.
- II. Additions or changes to the agenda: *None*
- III. Housing Committee Update:
 - a. Eric: met last month to continue potential housing trust conversation. Renewed shared housing class efforts. Have paid for 3 classes and they have not yet been utilized. Short employee housing survey for valley business owners to complete to gather an updated idea on what everyone is looking for. Meeting next Wednesday, online only. Still working on where Act250 funds are going from the valley once they get to the VHCB.
- IV. Marketing Committee Update:
 - a. Hired Tim Dolan as marketing director and he's working on some items. Meeting next week to begin branding items. Received \$30,000 VT Tourism grant funding and will be focused on daytrippers and diversity campaign. Received our video/drone/photo assets from prior RFQ. Tim is working on organizing them. Also received some photo assets from Sarah Shippee who had previously prepared them for the Town of Dover.
- V. DV Fiber Update:
 - a. Grant funding in bank account. GWI continuing work on make ready piece for priority towns.
- VI. Other Business: *None*
- VII. Wilmington update:
 - a. Scott: Public safety facility moving ahead with some vendor staffing issues. Believed to still be on schedule. Back to preserving our health again with current wave of COVID affecting employees.
 - b. Gretchen: Selectboard did pass vacant building ordinance. Mike Tuller, ZA and I working together on reaching out to these property owners to get a permit to continue to keep their building vacant. Selectboard also passed new housing zoning – adding density levels in town center. Wilmington Works has 4-year review upcoming in March. Discussion on Downtown Designation area. Trying to move forward on sewer/water expansion on Rt 9 east. Looking for funding mechanisms to make that work.
- VIII. Dover update:
 - a. Vicki: busily handling budget which will have an increase – lots going up like salt/services/wages driving that. Hopeful legislature approves delaying Town Meeting so we can hold in spring again. Not finalizing budget until 1/18; may postpone if Town Meeting is moved. Looking for a full time Police Officer with Chief retiring in under 2 years and loss of a part time officer.
 - b. Eric: Finalized our department budget and working on overview for Town Report. Trails meeting next week with discussion on timeline for next year of projects for Dover Town Forest and Horace Hill areas; finalizing those maps and plans. New East Dover business in General Store/Post Office building 'Dover the Moon'. Wrapped up Dover Launch and working on what our next big thing we can be doing to promote and grow business in Dover.

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IX. Mount Snow update:

- a. Open for skiing/riding, working on resurfacing after the rain and cold. Hoping to expand on last few snowmaking trails. Difficult decision to not open tubing this year. We will run the covered bridge carpet for parking and make a little snow on the hill for ski school and guests to return to parking. Working with all related groups and permitting for the two new lifts and hope to get going April 1.

X. Hermitage Club update: *None in attendance*

XI. BDCC update:

- a. Infrastructure analysis for communities of 5,000 or less to study wants and needs to go after that federal funding to help those move forward. Will be circulating this to those communities soon. Offering multi unit homebuyer class, in partnership with Windham Windsor Housing Trust. Focused on Rockingham as the host place and hoping to share those lessons learned there. Welcoming Communities program – refugee support program’s first refugee family arrived 2 days ago. Looking at a total of 90 individuals from Afghanistan including 28 school children coming. Only short about 4 housing units at this point. Launching KIVA loan program as BDCC has become a trustee.

XII. Chamber update:

- a. New executive director hired, Bethaney LaClair. She’ll be in attendance at next meeting. Still looking for a part time office manager.

XIII. Moover update: *None in attendance*

XIV. Eric: VT Chamber of Commerce hosting Economic Conference online January 25 & 26. [Info for those interested: <https://www.vtchamber.com/events-2022-economic-conference/>]

XV. Next meeting February 3.

XVI. Motion to adjourn by Gretchen at 8:42 am, seconded by Eric

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover