

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, February 3, 2022

Members present: Gretchen Havreluk, Heidi Taylor, Bill Benneyan, Bethaney LaClair, Adam Grinold

Others present: Jessica Lee Smith

Members present via Zoom: Eric Durocher, Tracy Bartels, Vicki Capitani, Tom Fitzgerald, Christine Howe

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Tim Dolan, Meg Staloff

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

- I. Additions or changes to the agenda:
 - a. *Gretchen: add discussing virtual vs hybrid meetings under Other Business.*
- II. Approve minutes from January 6:
 - a. Motion to approve by Bill, seconded by Eric. Motion approved.
- III. Housing Committee Update:
 - a. Eric: met last month, discussed joining the multifamily homebuyer course; Eric attended. No responses yet on shared housing course registrations. Still discussing a possible Deerfield Valley housing trust and how that could be funded. Gretchen and Eric met again with Granicus on AirBnb/short term rental registrations and what ordinances might go with that.
- IV. Marketing Committee Update:
 - a. Gretchen: introduced Tim Dolan, Marketing Director. In process of working on Summer/Fall 22 campaign funding Selectboard ask and wanted to present here first. [Presentation found [here](#)]
 - b. Questions:
 - i. Bill: is the brand audit available to review? <Report found [here](#)>
 - ii. Adam: What are the brand differentiators? *Two biggest are location and access to water.*
 - iii. Bill: do you have enough content for this Summer's campaign? *We will be able to pull from past campaigns for Summer and will reach out to partners as well. We do have new Fall assets ready.*
 - iv. Vicki: math isn't adding up. *Will look for broken formula and update.*
- V. DV Fiber Update:
 - a. No new updates; still working on make ready and financing.
- VI. Other Business:
 - a. Virtual vs. hybrid meetings:
 - i. Discussion on moving to virtual meetings only but it was decided to remain hybrid.
- VII. Wilmington update:
 - a. Tom: budget and articles are done and warned. Ballots are ready and you can request one be mailed. Online informational meeting 2/23 and then voting will take place at OSEC. No race is contested.
 - b. Gretchen: went to Selectboard for approval to begin grant writing for Route 9 sewer/water infrastructure project. Wilmington Works having 4 years review with State so have been working on preparing for that interview.
- VIII. Dover update:
 - a. Vicki: Postponed in person Town Meeting to sometime in May at either Carinthia again or Town Hall. Budget not finalized but it looks like it will increase around 5%.
 - b. Eric: presented ED Q2 update to Selectboard this week, the November 1% payment was up 43% over last year but up 13% over 2019 which shows a real increase. In process of creating new technical assistance grant program for Dover businesses. Working on creating trails and

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recreation process documents. One pipe process that everyone will have to go through. Want to follow the trails and recreation plan and hope to move those projects forward.

IX. Mount Snow update:

- a. Tracy: looking forward to President's week, held a local business update meeting at Carinthia to see how they were doing. Spring Brewer's and Reggae-fest events are returning. Working hard on new lifts with Agency of Natural Resources and Act 250 and hope to pull chairs at the beginning of April.

X. Hermitage Club update:

- a. Bill: In good shape despite whatever weather is coming. Club continues to grow steadily.

XI. BDCC update:

- a. Adam: Maple Valley is going through Act 250 process for brewery distillery. About 55 refugees in the region which is faster than we expected so looking for some budget adjustment. New replacement for RT Brown and new community facilities program. New grant program forthcoming

XII. Chamber update:

- a. Bethaney: Beer and Chili Stroll coming in April. My priority is reaching out to members and non-members these first weeks. Fireworks planned for July 2nd.

XIII. Moover update:

- a. Christine: not seeing Covid absences but drivers are out with regular illness. Ridership is still off from 2019 but that was a record-breaking year. So we're having an above average year. We aren't seeing the huge Route 100 increase we were worried about from paid parking. Adjusted Bellows Falls route to pick up at SIT for refugees. Have updated info so they can point to their destination. Route 30 study in the 2nd stage of first draft on what that potential route might look like from Brattleboro to Stratton.

XIV. Next meeting March 3.

XV. Motion to adjourn by Eric at 8:57 am, seconded by Bill

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover