

**Bi-Town Economic Development Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue**  
**Thursday, July 7, 2022**

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Members present: Gretchen Havreluk, Adam Grinold, Brian Suhadolc, Bill Benneyan

Members present via Zoom: Vicki Capitani, Eric Durocher, Bethaney LaClair, Tom Fitzgerald, Christine Howe

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler

**Meeting called to order at 8:02 am by Vice Chair Eric**

- I. Additions or changes to the agenda: *None*
- II. Approve minutes of June 2:
  - a. Motion to approve by Gretchen, seconded by Bethaney. Motion approved.
- III. Housing Committee Update:
  - a. Eric: Didn't meet last month due to quorum. Diane Chapman has stepped down from meetings, believe Stephanie Pohle will be joining. Did meet with Gretchen on long term rental incentive programs like accessory dwelling unit and rental supplement incentives active in Woodstock. 7/19 Wilmington Selectboard meeting will include a discussion on short term rentals and how it is affecting housing including registration models. Next committee meeting Wednesday 7/13.
  - b. Gretchen: VCDA held their housing conference; very well attended. <https://www.vtcda.org/> to view materials
  - c. Adam: Wilmington water fees have gone up drastically; it's cost prohibitive for rental units.
  - d. Discussion on rates, Tom did not have changes at hand to share.
- IV. Marketing Committee Update:
  - a. Gretchen: Gave an update to both Selectboards; working on new banners now. 2 photoshoots last week.
  - b. Eric: Meeting today with Tim, Bethaney and the State for an update for them on how we've used marketing grant funding.
- V. DV Fiber Update:
  - a. Gretchen: Still searching for Executive Director. Hoping fiber for it gets up soon. Fielding a lot of calls about Fidium.
  - b. Eric: they have opened preregistration for service for Dover at least. <https://www.fidiumfiber.com/pre-order>
- VI. Other Business:
  - a. Eric: Act250 Office has developed a program navigator to help you determine what you need from them for your project. They are hosting biweekly webinars on it. Walgreens in Manchester has been shut down until further notice for similar complaints we had here.
  - b. Discussion on state's actions against Walgreens and possible local ramifications, DVN article coming this week about it.
- VII. Wilmington update:
  - a. Tom: Opened public safety building to a crowd of around 250. Approved water and sewer rates this past week. Farmer's Day Fair having downsized event. Discussed use of old Fire House.
  - b. Gretchen: Beaver St art opening held, please stop by to view it. Lots of commercial real estate activity. Held an ARPA fund discussion at last Selectboard meeting. Working on arts collaborative at Old School. Wilmington Works Economic Development Committee working on market analysis but is cost prohibitive. WCEDP funding from Vermont Yankee closure has been

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managed primarily by Governor and VEDA but now it is back home in Windham County under BDCC.

**VIII. Dover update:**

- a. Vicki: setting tax rate next week. Moving forward with town wide reappraisal, down to one company that bid on it, the other withdrew. With the backlog at appraisal companies this won't be completed until 2025/2026.
- b. Discussion on CLA with delays in reappraisals and Wilmington's recent experience with their reappraisal.
- c. Eric: Last 1% payment in May was up over 2021, 2020, and 2019. Lots of DO-IT signs out as 15 projects were approved for this year, and many are in the works already. Technical Assistance grant should be finalized and launched soon. Library Storywalk installed at Park.

**IX. Mount Snow update:**

- a. Brian: 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks well attended. Friday night block parties have been successful. Lift projects are moving along, first cement pour Friday.

**X. Hermitage Club update:**

- a. Bill: 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a great turnout. Maintenance building in progress. Under 100 working days to next season.

**XI. BDCC update:**

- a. Adam: great holiday weekend for everyone. WCEDP Funds originally managed by state, but now will be through BDCC. There is over \$2 million available. Will be offering low interest rate loans, Instig8 loans, technical assistance with all those loans. Considering trainings on inflation and running their numbers. Loans for oil accounts/prebuys. Refugees coming from Republic of Congo so now French speaking individuals arriving. We are also seeing Ukrainian refugees arriving but not through State programs. Resource coordination happening to get things in this area for refugees.

**XII. Chamber update:**

- a. Bethaney: Fireworks went well, special thanks to the Moover. Golf Tournament on July 25<sup>th</sup> has some player openings if you'd like to join. Blueberry Festival just after it, no parade this year. Blueberry website will be updated this week with full schedule of events. Wine and Harvest Festival September 24 weekend. We were able to get changes made to special event permits so vendors can now sell tastings by glass and bottle. Expecting it to be successful on both the vendor and attendee front. Wilmington Works Village stroll July 23, Rotary has Barns and Music tour on July 16. Working with BDCC on Employing New Americans webinar series and Equitable Workplace trainings in September. BDCC hoping to fill with Deerfield Valley businesses first. Hope for strong attendance. Visitor Center has been very busy daily.

**XIII. Moover update:**

- a. Christine: Ran shuttles for Wilmington fireworks. Will share ridership numbers next meeting. Hiring seasonal drivers for Winter and starting to meet with HOAs.

**XIV. Next meeting August 4**

**XV. Motion to adjourn by Christine at 8:46am, seconded by Bill**

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler  
Economic Development, Town of Dover