

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, August 4, 2022

Members present: Gretchen Havreluk, Heidi Taylor, Bethaney LaClair, Brian Suhadolc, Bill Benneyan

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

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by Chair Heidi

- I. Additions or changes to the agenda: *None*
- II. Approve minutes of July 7:
 - a. Motion to approve by Eric, seconded by Gretchen. Motion approved.
- III. Housing Committee Update:
 - a. Eric: a reminder to share relevant housing resources for website. Still talking about short term rental registration and ADU programs. Gretchen shared housing events updates. Discussed potential ADU and long term rental incentive programs. Continued discussion on short term rental registrations. Looking for new committee members, please send anyone interested to Gretchen or Eric. Wilmington Selectboard discussed STR registrations and Dover will in future.
 - b. Gretchen: yes, it was decided conversation should go back to BiTown housing and exactly how that will be handled whether full committee or subgroup will happen at next meeting.
 - c. Want to make sure short term rental owners are represented; we want them to be a part of these conversations; we need their input.
- IV. Marketing Committee Update:
 - a. Gretchen: held final photoshoot end of June, new assets are out in the ads. New banners going up in Wilmington. (Dover will hang once they have additional designed banners in.). Printed postcards are out to inns/lodges for visitors to send to friends/family.
 - b. Bethaney: just a note if you see the ads we aren't targeting locally – we're out the outskirts of the marketing area and your device may ping those locations. We are targeting daytrippers which is new for us.
- V. DV Fiber Update:
 - a. Received a 21.9 million dollar grant for construction. Still might have a gap in funding due to when grant funds will arrive so working with banks on that. Looking at a 24-month buildout. Southern Vermont CUD (Bennington) has contracted with Consolidated.
- VI. Other Business:
 - a. Walgreens Update & Discussion:
 - i. Gretchen: Think we should still keep our eyes on this. Manchester pharmacy closed; seeing sporadic hours here in Wilmington. Thinking about alternatives.
- VII. Wilmington update:
 - a. Tom: Selectboard meeting once a month still; appointed new members to trails and recreation committees and those are full. Town searching for Justices of the Peace, we have 5 and need 10. Held short term rental conversation. Talked about water/sewer extension on Route 9 and think we'll move forward to RFPs on that.
 - b. Gretchen: Well attended discussion on short term rental registration at that Selectboard meeting. In researching for that meeting, surprised out of 326 short term rentals in Wilmington, the majority are over 4 bedrooms. Working on infrastructure expansion of sewer and water on Rt 9 East. Will be going back to Selectboard for ARPA funding in August for design/engineering piece of that project to make it shovel ready for construction. DRB has been busy with permitting. Some Inns,

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the barn on Rt 9, the corner building and a doughnut shop on West Main. Wilmington Works ED committee continues to send out postcards to new homeowners driving them to sign up for Town and Wilmington Works newsletters. Working on coworking space at OSEC and grant opportunities for that. Creating a ADU brochure to give to homeowners looking for info on how to add one to their property.

VIII. Dover update:

- a. Vicki: Tuesday signed contract with WRC to get RFPs together for scoping grant to remove Snow Lake Dam. NEMC contract signed for town wide reappraisal for 2026 tax year. Having trouble getting heating oil/fuel quotes, have postponed that to September. Ours also includes Dover School so that's a real mess. Recently delivered some fuel at \$5.29 when last year's prebuy was \$2.48.
- b. Eric: Special Ridge Project site visit meeting Tuesday morning with SoVTA and USFS for that trail system. Waiting for recommendation from USFS on when we can construct parking lot. Working with SoVTA on RFP to come soon. Town Forest parking lot expansion almost complete. Close to implementing new Philip Bartlett name there. Board approved new Technical Assistance Program for Dover businesses; applications will open August 15.

IX. Mount Snow update:

- a. Brian: Continuing with lift construction, still pouring concrete. Will be ready for ski season. Summer Ops are ongoing. Brewers Festival September 3, tickets launching online.

X. Hermitage Club update:

- a. Bill: Continuing to get ready, framework for maintenance building is up. Townhomes are close to completion.

XI. BDCC update: *None in attendance*

XII. Chamber update:

- a. Golf Tournament went well, monthly mixers have been great, about 60 at Chez Nous last week. Blueberry Festival underway. Up to 100 people a day in the chamber getting info for that. Wine and Harvest planning underway, looking like a great vendor turnout. Working on new membership structure which will be slowly announced next month. August mixer at Haystack Golf Course, date TBD. Blueberry Block Party is this Friday, Becca Balint will be in attendance.

XIII. Moover update:

- a. Christine: ridership from 761 people 4th it was a little higher preCovid but for a Saturday that is great numbers. In process for season driver hiring. Hit ridership records in Brattleboro.

XIV. Next meeting September 8

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover