

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, July 6, 2023

Members present: Eric Durocher, Gretchen Havreluk, Heidi Taylor, Bethaney LaClair

Also present: Charlie Foster

Members present via Zoom: Laura Sibilia (for BDCC), Christine Howe, Brian Suhadolc, Tom Fitzgerald (8:04)

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Samantha Kondracki

A recording of this meeting can be found here: https://youtu.be/t09Y_7Lx4uc

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

I. Public Comments:

- a. Gretchen welcomed Samantha & went around the room with introduct

II. Additions or changes to the agenda: *None*

III. Approve minutes of June 12th meeting:

- a. Motion to approve by Heidi, seconded by Bethaney. Motion approved.

IV. Housing Committee Update:

- a. Bi-Town Housing Rental Sub-Committee Report Review Presentation by Charlie Foster
 - i. Full report will go to BiTown Housing Committee next and then both Selectboards.

V. Marketing Committee Update:

- a. Phase 1 of campaign ran May 11- June 12 on Meta. Ended with 6 million impressions and about 10k landing page views, more than double this phase last year. Phase 2 started with new photos and a video on June 12. Google ads had 139k impressions and 12k web visits year to date. Hosted Chamber Mixer at end of May with VisitVermont hospitality video. Guilford Welcome center display going up today.

VI. Economic Data Reporting:

- a. Shared data of 1% local option tax historical payments since implementation in Dover and Wilmington.

VII. Other Business:

- a. BiTown Video Recordings: have been recording meetings but have not been posting them publicly. Discussion and decided to post them to Town of Dover YouTube page.

VIII. Wilmington Update:

- a. Gretchen: submitted tax credit apps to state for 2 properties: 12 South Main next to library with large renovation project and nonprofit housing. Downstairs will be art classes and events and a beer/wine bar. 37 West Main becoming 5 apartments and 1 retail space along with a painting business. Should hear in late August. Lots of private developer housing inquiries. Bylaw modernization grant: working with planning commission now to get them on board and hearing coming in September for those new regulations and then go to Selectboard. Has a lot to do with density issues in village center. Working on veteran's park next to safety facility building, seeking funding and hoping to be built for next summer. Town Office building getting painted with new windows. SB voted to have a committee look at relocating town offices.
- b. Tom: Serious about looking for new place for town offices. It's a tired building and it's going to need a lot of money into this location. We lost Chuck Clerici, our energy coordinator, to a move. Working on Tennis Courts with our pickleball fanatics. New windows have made a big difference noisewise. Meeting monthly for summertime.

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IX. Dover Update:

- a. Eric: moving ahead on Horace Hill project. Pulled stormwater permit and are working on wetlands permit. Upper part of property underway, lower section later this summer. Working on replacing bridge decking on Valley Trail and just closed an RFP for it. Closed DOIT program and awarded \$45k, Selectboard reopened for applications through July 10. Summer concerts have begun but have been rained out so far. Still working on PFAS well project at daycare and library building.

X. Hermitage Club Update: *None in attendance*

XI. Mount Snow Update:

- a. Appreciated the housing report information. Had to cancel fireworks, working on that reschedule to Friday, September 1 after block party on Brewfest weekend. Golf course doing well even with the rain. Opened 3 weeks later for summer ops than last year so we could rework some bike trails. Team is working on Crosstown Trails.

XII. BDCC Update: *None in attendance*

XIII. Moover Update:

- a. Christine: Shuttled for fireworks: 750 rides last year seemed comparable this year. New fiscal year started 7/1 good grant funding but no new start ups. Facility and feasibility study is just beginning for a Brattleboro site.

XIV. Chamber Update:

- a. Bethaney: Fireworks on Saturday, believe over 2000 in attendance, good feedback on show. Annual member meeting on Tuesday presenting new bylaws. Golf Tournament 7/25, then into Blueberry Festival. Parade is back in Dover, street fair there. Hoping for pre-Covid numbers in turnout. Wine and Harvest ticket sales up at this point than have been in the past. Moxie band playing just back from their first tour. Hoping to drive those numbers. New membership/events coordinator started recently has a lot of background in membership management. Renewals will start in September.

XV. Motion to adjourn by Heidi 9:06 am

Next meeting September 7th

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover