

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Notes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, February 29, 2024

Members present: Gretchen Havreluk

Members present via Zoom: Eric Durocher, Vicki Capitani, Brian Suhadolc, Adam Grinold, Bill Benneyan

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/008M17i1ITc>

Meeting opened at 8:05 am by Chair Eric – the following are notes only as there was no quorum.

I. Housing Committee Update:

- a. Eric: did meet in February, had conversation on creating a landlord support group. Some to-dos came out of that for Eric, Gretchen, and Todd Gareiss, including Eric updating the housing website. New set meeting time on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1pm.

II. Marketing Committee Update:

- a. Gretchen: Town Signage Plan approved by Wilmington (Dover is awaiting some minor changes before approving). Campaign creative RFP went out, 24 responses received. Tim Dolan narrowed it down to 6 and we scored top 3 to interview. Met yesterday to make our selection and will be working with Trampoline again.

III. Economic Data Reporting:

- a. Eric and Gretchen provided their recent 1% payment info.

IV. Other Business:

- a. Walgreens update: Gretchen: there's a new manager who is local, they are looking to add more merchandise to the store, knows that there are pharmacy struggles.

V. Wilmington Update:

- a. Gretchen: getting ready for Town Meeting; Australian ballot vote for a \$3m bond for Rt 9 E sewer and water project and 2nd question about working with USDA with a loan, some of which could be forgiven. USDA will not entertain application until there is an approved bond vote. Total project cost is 5.1 million, when the project began it was 2.7 million, have obtained 2 million in grants so far. Waiting on a VOREC grant notification on Hoot Toot Whistle project. Working on E Main St. easements still. Towns of Brattleboro and Rockingham working on Windham County Cultural Plan. Looking for members for a steering committee.

VI. Dover Update:

- a. Vicki: getting ready for Town Meeting, no contested races. Budget up 4.5%. Just approved a burglar alarm ordinance now in petition period awaiting to take effect. Getting ready to look at new town plan that the planning commission and WRC have been working on; scheduled for late May. 36 hour well test approved at the Town common.
- b. Eric: In process of updating housing and economic development websites. Trails: maps and signage for Horace Hill going. Draft ordinance on STR coming together. Looking at 2 registration companies to make a recommendation to the Selectboard. Updating business plan competition to run again in conjunction with a smaller revolving loan program. Updating programming for new fiscal year.

VII. Hermitage Club Update:

- a. Bill: Season has continued to be great despite the weather, holiday stretch was amazing. Seeing more visitation from newer and younger family members. Great community day earlier in the

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month. Raised 16k for the two funds. Hosting Special Olympics on Friday, March 15. Believe last time this event has happened was 2019. Looking for a change in the weather.

VIII. Mount Snow Update:

- a. Brian: Great Presidents' week. March is full of events: Carinthia Classic, Demo Day, Reggae-fest Sink or Skim, Duct Tape Derby. Would be great to see some snow.

IX. Chamber Update:

- a. Shannon for Bethaney: Vermont Craft Beer & Chili Stroll is 4/5 from 4-7pm. We are expecting around 450-500 people. We're cross promoting it with the eclipse on Monday and Mount Snow's events and encouraging people to make it a long weekend. Looking for volunteers to help if anyone is interested they can reach out to Bethaney.

X. Meeting concluded at 8:35 am.

Next meeting May 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover