

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, March 6, 2025

Members present: Gretchen Havreluk, Bill Benneyan, Heidi Taylor

Members present via Zoom: Eric Durocher, Lea Gabrielle Potts, Charlie Foster, Christine Howe, Adam Grinold, Bethaney LaClair

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Tim Dolan, Sam Kondracki, Laura Sibilia

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/m0RL-Ppi6YM>

Meeting called to order at 8:04 am by Chair Eric

I. Public Comments:

- a. Lea Gabrielle Potts introduced herself and gave an update [listed below]

II. Additions or changes to the agenda: *Move Moover update to first update to accommodate Christine.*

III. Approve minutes of January 9th meeting:

- a. Motion to approve by Gretchen, seconded by Adam. Motion approved.

IV. Legislative Updates and Questions:

- a. Laura Sibilia provided an update including 1% local option tax short form bill in ways and means. Adam shared some additional information on housing.
- b. Bethaney: Chamber has received some calls from Canadians expressing their frustrations and choice not to travel to Vermont. Is drafting letters to local legislators and state.
- c. [Laura left the meeting at the conclusion of this discussion]

V. Housing Committee Update:

- a. Eric: did meet this month, had a visitor regarding lead abatement. Working on ADU programs and with landlord support group.

VI. Marketing Committee Update:

- a. Gretchen: working on Summer/Fall campaign. Pole Banner Preview: Tim shared preview of new banners [attached]. Eric and Gretchen will share to their Selectboards.

VII. Other Business:

- a. Discussion on whether we should send letters on the 1% Laura discussed. Determined Bethaney will send email she was already working on. Eric and Gretchen will draft letters and send them to this group before sending out.

VIII. Moover Update:

- a. Christine: flat in ridership this winter but started a week late. Drop zone change working well. Attending Town Meetings for all 34 served towns, good feedback. Working on grants and funding for next year, much up in the air. Still a little short on drivers.

IX. Wilmington Update:

- a. Charlie: Town Meeting: Bob Fisher had to be appointed as the Moderator as he moved out of town. Was elected for remainder of term. John LeBrun voted in to John Gannon's seat who is now living in Wyoming. Vince Rice re-elected. One article went to vote limiting the number of cannabis retailers in the town, which was approved. Budget and everything approved without much discussion. In reorganization: Tom re-elected Chair, Vince Vice Chair and Tony as clerk.
- b. Gretchen: Rt 9 East water/sewer project in easement mode. East Main St sidewalk project: state is looking at signed easements now then request for proposals will go out for contractors. There will be a sewer piece to that project as well with private lines under homes and will connect the funeral home. Hoot, Toot, and Whistle trail project again moving forward working on contracts.
- c. Sam: Wrapped up Making it on Main Street business plan competition. Three winters: Button Mountain Bakery in 1st to expand their business. Local Loop is a new retain business occupying

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a vacant downtown building, and Cherry Press Print will be moving her business to downtown. Working hard on closing funding gap for Veterans Memorial Park.

X. Dover Update:

- a. Vicki: Moderately attended Town meeting, no contested races. Was re-elected and voter chair, Joe Mahon won re-election and welcomed a new board member Patrick Lagrange who is also the chair of the planning commission and water task force. Voters were generous, raised Moover appropriation by floor vote from \$4,000 to \$10,000. Water task force is busy negotiating a contract for feasibility study.
- b. Eric: Waiting for final run through with Deckard for short term registration rental. They had some technical issues on their end getting payment systems and things attached. As soon as that's taken care of we'll be launching the STR registrations. Seeing positive feedback and usage on Bandwango. Wrapping up land and water conservation fund grant for skate park. Answering lots of questions for concerned constituents on 1% and transparency in ED department.

XI. Hermitage Club Update:

- a. Bill: Best coverage/conditions in a decade, other than the wind we had. Membership continues to grow. Key events: community day, NSAA regional convention, hosted young adult patrollers event, hosted Vermont Winter Special Olympics this past weekend. Kudos again to Sam on a great event. And a great Town Meeting day, looking ahead to sunny afternoons. Open all week next week for a lot of member school breaks. Looking forward to Chili stroll. Scheduled to close after 30th of March if conditions allow we'll stretch for one more weekend. Raised \$9,000 each for Community Cares and the Food Pantry with Community Day.

XII. Mount Snow Update: hosted

- a. Lea: Carinthia classic this weekend, A Day for Jake March 15, Reggaefest March 20-23. Projected closing April 20. Summer block parties return, fireworks on July 5.

XIII. BDCC Update:

- a. Adam: received award from National Science Foundation in partnership with Landmark College, Bennington College, and CCV to engage in expansion of stem based business network for 4 southern counties. Starting Launch Pad next week. Board training starting soon in its third version. Launched Windham Seed Fund, an investment fund for small startups. Southern Vermont Economy Summit May 20 at Mount Snow.

XIV. Chamber Update:

- a. 165 members as of yesterday, a significant growth from the last few years. Vermont Craft Beer and Chili Stroll on March 28th from 4-7. Ticket sales up and hoping for great weather. Thank you to the Towns for approving event funding. Fireworks will happen July 2nd. Focusing on laying the foundation for all the events. Tomorrow is my last full time day at the Chamber. Will stay on part time focusing on event planning and will monitor emails. Executive Director search launched last week, looks like a solid first round of applicants, Shannon is taking lead on that.

XV. Motion to adjourn by Heidi, seconded by Bill at 9:13 am.

Next meeting May 1st

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler

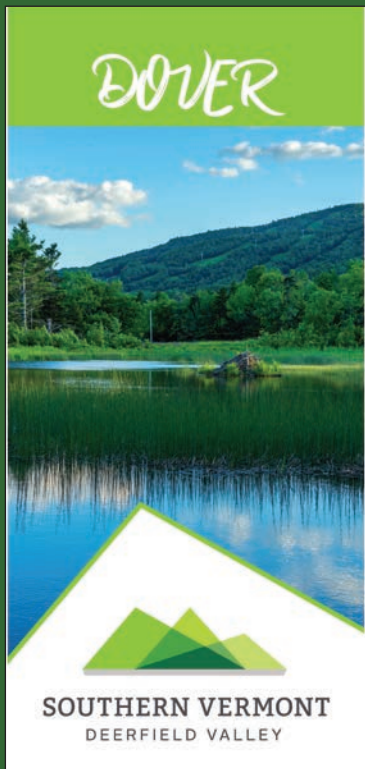
Economic Development, Town of Dover

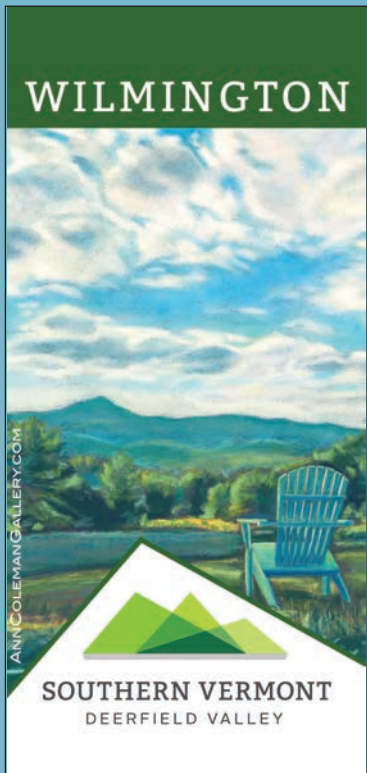
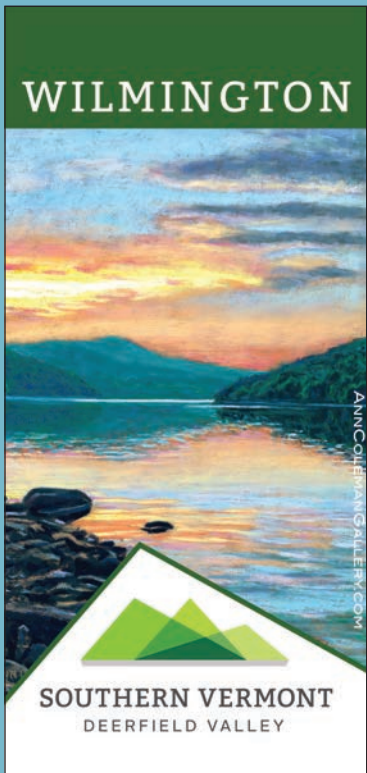


Each town will have 3 new banners that will be staggered throughout town, reminding visitors of each of the seasons of Southern Vermont regardless of when they visit.



In Dover the new banners will remain up year round throughout the town, while the existing seasonal banners will continue to rotate out with each season.





In Wilmington, the 3 new banner designs will stay up year round outside of downtown, while the existing seasonal designs will rotate in the downtown area.

ie Summer, these 6 different designs will be seen