

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, May 1, 2025

Members present: Gretchen Havreluk, Heidi Taylor, Bill Benneyan (8:14 AM)

Members present via Zoom: Eric Durocher, Vicki Capitani, Adam Grinold, Lea Gabrielle Potts

Also present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Sam Kondracki

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

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

I. Public Comments:

- a. Eric: Last day with Town of Dover is tomorrow, it's been a pleasure working with you all.

II. Additions or changes to the agenda: Added a Wilmington Works update.

III. Approve minutes of March 6th meeting:

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

IV. Housing Committee Update:

- a. Eric: Have not met in a little bit, will touch base with Gretchen on who will carry that on and should see some updates at next meeting.

V. Marketing Committee Update:

- a. Gretchen: working on finalizing summer campaign and starts next week. Did have to make decision on use of TikTok with June 19 sale date being after campaign launch; decided not to use. Finalized summer trifold, going out to Chamber and Welcome Centers. Discussed an email signup contest. Decided to put hold on using Bandwango for BiTown, which is currently in use by Dover.

VI. Economic Data Reporting:

- a. Gretchen: 1% showing February payment increased by 35% over last year. Last year was 71 days and this year 94 days. 2023 payment per day was \$1,516.65 and 2024 \$1,548.29. So there is an increase but is it just that things cost more? Gretchen will send out data that includes rooms, meals, alcohol and sales tax breakdowns.
- b. Discussion on inflation in numbers reported.
- c. Eric: Dover received \$207,688.82 which is a 21% increase over last year.
- d. Discussion on 1% conversations at state level.

VII. Other Business:

- a. July meeting date: Scheduled for July 3rd – consensus July 10th works.
- b. Open seats/reorganization: will revisit at July meeting.

VIII. Wilmington Update:

- a. Gretchen: Hoot Toot & Whistle Trail accessibility reconstruction happening this summer. Saladino property management hired. Been challenging with State. East Main St sidewalk project plans have been finalized by the State, they put their seal on it. Getting out to bid in the next month. Concern if there will be contractors available to do it and it might be out of price range. Water and sewer project Route 9 East have final plans and am slowly attaining easements. East Main St building in DRB for a tear down working through that.

IX. Dover Update:

- a. Vicki: skipping due to audio challenges.
- b. Eric: Getting into Summer. Sinuousity out doing maintenance on Horace Hill. Hoping to see attendance numbers continue to trend up. Leaving the department tomorrow, Shannon has all the info to keep things rolling. STR Registration is open with minimal issues, process is working

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way we intended it. Waiting to hear land water conservation 2nd round grant submission for skate park. Shannon has all the information if it's something the Town decides to move forward with.

X. Hermitage Club Update:

- a. Bill: Great end of the season, April is busiest month with maintenance and budgeting and planning time. Continuing to welcome new members even this week. Business is healthy, product is good. Well staffed; whole industry following visas and our seasonal workers.

XI. Mount Snow Update:

- a. Lea: Strong finish to season, not a lot of snow in March. Busy preparing for summer. Golf Club planning to be open May 16-October 19. Scenic chairlift and bike park June 21 – October 13. OEC June 16 – August 22. Friday night block parties will be back. Fireworks on July 5, Eastern State Cup races July 12/13 and Brewer's Festival coming up.

XII. BDCC Update:

- a. Adam: Excited for the Summit at the Grand Summit May 20. The Boston Fed chair, Dr. Collins is attending. A real coup for this event and region to have her in attendance. New staff STRIVE program coming on board Monday – a National Science foundation funded program and still funded as of today. For the bottom 4 counties to connect with STEM based businesses, not healthcare but many others to support them in grant writing assistance. In partnership with Landmark College, CCV, Bennington College, as well as statewide EPSCoR UVM and the Leahy Rural Center. Lending programs and small business support events happening. Bobbi Kilburn leaving BDCC for an amazing opportunity.

XIII. Moover Update: *None in attendance*

XIV. Wilmington Works Update:

- a. Sam: From our business plan competition winners: Cherry Press Printmaking planning a soft opening Memorial Day weekend. Local Loop planning to open in July pending some permitting. Strolls and Blueberry Block party coming. Wilmington Rec Commission is bringing back swimming lessons to the town for the first time in 25+ years.

XV. Chamber Update:

- a. Kicked off events season with Chili stroll and 400 attendees, La Casita won the chili contest. Golf Tournament is June 16, reach out if you'd like to play or support. Fireworks on July 2nd at Hayford Field. Final stages of hiring a new Executive Director. Steadily getting new members, at 170.

XVI. Motion to adjourn by Adam with note: thank you Eric for being Chair and for all your years of service, seconded by Bill with note: we're going to miss you, Eric, at 8:32 am.

Next meeting July 10th

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler

Economic Development, Town of Dover