

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, July 10, 2025

Members present: Gretchen Havreluk,

Members present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Vicki Capitani, Bill Benneyan, Charlie Foster, Christine Howe, Adam Grinold

Also present via Zoom: Sam Kondracki

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/gN4htkQvEY8>

Meeting called to order at 8:02 am by Vice Chair Bill

- I. Public Comments: *None*
- II. Additions or changes to the agenda: *None*
- III. Approve minutes of May 1st meeting:
 - a. Motion to approve by Vicki, seconded by Adam. Motion approved.
- IV. Housing Committee Update:
 - a. Gretchen: Met with a refresh on a hybrid meeting. New member Keith Balvin; Castle Consulting; very excited. Has created a tracking spreadsheet; hoping to fill in some spots at today's 1pm meeting. Local resource list discussed, continuing housing discussion, looking to reorganize the committee.
- V. Marketing Committee Update:
 - a. Gretchen: Ad campaign in full swing, new brochure at Welcome Center. Working on webcam at Hermitage Club and fall photoshoot. State campaign using some of our photos. Hospitality video on Where Vermonting Begins sent out to local businesses. New contest for employees. Trying to work on more accurate footfall tracking mechanism with Booyah.
- VI. Economic Data Reporting:
 - a. Shannon: Dover received \$406,659.06 for February 5th to May 4th. Up about 7% ad now the largest single payment received.
 - b. Gretchen: Shows a 3.25% increase. Gretchen will send out her data.
- VII. Other Business:
 - a. Reorganization: Vicki nominates Gretchen for Chair and Christine for Vice Chair. Adam seconds. All approve.
 - b. Minutes: Shannon will continue to take the minutes and send out agendas.
- VIII. Wilmington Update:
 - a. Charlie: State notified they'll come in August/September for scoping for Bridge 31. There's a short-term staffing change in assessor's office; they're putting out grievance letters now and Grand List should go out end of July. Approved 1% request for Vermont's 250th anniversary celebration. Zoning administrator resigned, leaving in September or sooner depending on hire.
 - b. Gretchen: HTW projected starting this week, deploying equipment. Trail closed until September 15 goal. Funded by VOREC grant, Wilmington Fund Vermont and an anonymous donor, more funding still needed to fully complete. Left out the most difficult part, segment 1 at this time. Segment 1 left out the most difficult part. Working on sewer water easements on Route 9 east, and East Main St project is delayed again due to state final approval coming too late to get out to bid. Goal is now October.
- IX. Dover Update:
 - a. Vicki: grievance period ended. Repairing Blue brook bridge, state deemed unsafe and Dover's responsibility. Renaud hired for repairs to last 5 years. Water task force has surveyed all property owners with a great response; over 400 and goal was 100. Meeting with public 7/23 at Town Hall

Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, July 10, 2025

5pm to discuss results. Deerfield Valley News has been sold to The Commons/Vermont Independent Media.

- b. Shannon: In Director role for 7 weeks now. STR Registration is going well, a little less than half of properties have completed the process. More logistical and technical challenges than Eric could have anticipated. Working through those. Did not move past the 2nd round for the Land Water Conservation Fund grant for skatepark development. DOIT grant application window closed with 20 businesses being approved for funding and many of those projects are underway. Technical Assistance Grant should open up in September. Disc Golf Tournament happening in Horace Hill September 6&7.

X. Hermitage Club Update:

- a. Bill: Great July 4 weekend, busy town, becoming a tradition with members. Off season for us, not operating except for July 4th event so lots of maintenance projects around, snowmaking upgrades to compression system. Josh DeBottis taking over helm August 18, Bill staying on through end of September.

XI. Mount Snow Update: *None in attendance*

XII. BDCC Update:

- a. Adam: Hopeful for a funding award through SSPCI - US Treasury dollars going to each state into growing businesses – application is for 7 million, but it may be halved. If awarded, we get ability to market the program and let people know there's a one-to-one match. These would be first funds we have for startup access. Lots of programming happening, 3rd year for summer career bootcamp. BizConnect events happening, Meg and SoVT economy project kick off municipal leaders network August 28 through USDA program. Newcomer mixers and GROW events.

XIII. Moover Update:

- a. Christine: completed FY25, closing in on half a million riders which is our goal, think we'll be close but not hit and will share numbers in September. Fireworks went well, lighter ridership. Had to make some route adjustments due to funding cuts. Secured a Northern Borders Grant to start a microtransit service in Springfield. Still looking for drivers and volunteers for demand response rides.

XIV. Chamber Update:

- a. Shannon: Since our last meeting we did hire an executive director, but they have resigned and are finishing out last few days; that will be posted again shortly. Golf Tournament happened June 16 and was a great day. Fireworks were last Wednesday, a few complaints on social media about the day of the week but vendors reported numbers were up even though field felt lighter. Held some monthly member mixers including a highly attended GROW grant community mixer Monday at Vermont Distillers; will have other GROW events before year's end. Almost Blueberry Festival time, July 25th through August 3rd. Wine and Harvest approaching September 19th and 20th.

XV. Motion to adjourn by Gretchen, seconded by Vicki at 8:52 am.

Next meeting September 4th

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover