

**Bi-Town Economic Development Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2026**

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Members present: Gretchen Havreluk, Josh DeBottis, Heidi Taylor

Members present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Vicki Capitani, Pam Greene, Adam Grinold

Also present: Emily Carris-Duncan

Also present via Zoom: Sam Kondracki

**A recording of this meeting can be found here:** <https://youtu.be/kldC1tNj7AA>

**Meeting called to order at 8:02 am by Chair Gretchen**

- I. Public Comments: *None*
- II. Additions or changes to the agenda:
  - a. Add meeting time change under other business. Hold Legislative update until Emily arrives.
- III. Approve minutes of January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting:
  - a. Motion to approve by Vicki, second by Josh. Motion approved (Gretchen abstained)
- IV. Housing Committee Update:
  - a. Shannon: Still looking to reboot this – will have met before May meeting. BDCC hosting an event March 12, Gretchen will attend this and VCDA event in Montpelier April 15.
- V. Marketing Committee Update:
  - a. Gretchen: campaign just gearing up for the year, will bring an update to this group in May.
- VI. Economic Data Reporting:
  - a. Shannon: Received a payment for November 3-February 3 of \$240,448.35. 16% increase from last year, closer to 10% with the change in what the Town keeps. Meals/Rooms up 15%, Sales/Use up 16%. Returns: 2% more Sales/Use and up 26% in Meals/Rooms.
  - b. Gretchen: Down, even with the change in what the state is keeping, less returns in rooms/meals and alcohol. More Sales/Use returns, [Gretchen sent out]
  - c. Vicki: Shared that Laura Sabilia spoke at Dover Town Meeting about the 1% surplus funds the State has and urged letters from the Towns creating it.
- VII. Legislative Update: Rep. Emily Carris-Duncan
  - a. General update from commerce committee – addressing privacy issues and an event ticketing bill targeting spoof sites and high reseller markups. Aims to provide ability for venues to take legal action if their intellectual property is used. Rural caucus working on Act 181 and land use issues. Technical assistance available in some spots but working on getting a better handle on where and how we can streamline these processes. Fighting to make sure 1% towns are able to actually get the funding meant to help their towns. Is running for reelection.
- VIII. Other Business:
  - a. Meeting Time Change:

On a motion by Adam Grinold, seconded by Vicki Capitani, the committee unanimously approved changing the start time to 8:30am beginning with the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- IX. Wilmington Update:
  - a. Gretchen: Town Meeting the other day. Declined by a small vote a solar array on safety facility building. We had a complaint and someone asked for the permit for our pole banners. They have been up since 1993. This person brought it to the State, and they came back to us requiring a 1111 permit through VTRANS. We also have to update our agreement with Green Mountain Power. The VTRANS contact indicated the committee would most likely only allow downtown area banners. Whitingham is going through a similar issue. *[Adam: this sounds like a legislative fix. We can stall and delay any impact in our communities until theirs an opportunity for a*

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*legislative solution.]* New restaurant in town; TT's Kitchen and a doggy boarding and daycare on Rt 9 west. Doing a business cohort with Wilmington Works meeting monthly at OSEC. Bid out for East Main St sidewalk, working on contract with Waters Excavating. Route 9 infrastructure project has just passed through NBPA hope to soon move to bid.

- b. Sam: Third business plan competition opening in mid May. Our first restaurant week at the end of June. Working on getting some influencers involved ahead of time. Punch cards available when you eat out 5 of the 9 days you can enter a \$100 gift card raffle. Some restaurants will offer discounts or special items.

**X. Dover Update:**

- a. Vicki: Town Meeting: everything passed. Slightly less full house than last year. Created a fund for bridge repair and replacement for Bluebook Bridge. Took over West Dover cemetery, first municipal cemetery in Town. Got the water feasibility study in draft form this week.
- b. Shannon: Recreation Manager, Gordon Goss, started last month. Some maintenance, development now in house. Summer concerts are booked and kick off July 5<sup>th</sup>. Selectboard approved our Signage, Advertising and DOIT building improvement grant programs for FY 26-27. Will be sending DOIT info out to Dover businesses soon so they can prepare for the May 1-31 application window. Working on some website updates for the Town's website. Coming up on a year from our first test STR registration license. Expect renewals to happen through May and still working on outstanding registrations.

**XI. Hermitage Club Update:**

- a. Josh: Great season with snow, focused on community engagement – record turnout for Community ski day. Special Olympics this week, 150+ athletes taking part in the event. Hosting Chamber community mixer March 23. Last Sunday in March closing date. Lots of summer projects ahead.

**XII. Mount Snow Update:**

- a. Lea: Great season, 121" snowfall so far. Full events through the season, Carinthia Classic, Vermont Specialty Foods Day, Jack Jump World Championships, Reggae Fest, Sink or Skim and Duct Tape Derby still to come.

**XIII. BDCC Update:**

- a. Adam: convening a series of leadership luncheon events; next week's is housing with a great lineup. Windham Career Center P3 life skills event today. Seeing an uptick in lending and interest in spaces. Doing a lot of work with BMH; ad campaign to come on local healthcare is important, use them. RDCs hosting coffee next Friday at Statehouse. Recipient of a congressionally directed spending bill after 4 years of work. CDC through Senators Welch and Sanders still available.

**XIV. Moover Update:**

- a. Christine: *None in attendance.*

**XV. Chamber Update:**

- a. Pam: ramping up for all our summer events, first up is community mixer on March 23 at the Hermitage Club. Take a New Vermonter out for a meal in March; sign up on chamber or BDCC site. Craft Beer and Chili Stroll on West Main Street happening March 27. Blueberry Festival and Wine and Harvest planning well underway.

**XVI. Motion to adjourn by Heidi, seconded by Gretchen at 8:57 am.**

Next meeting May 7th

Respectfully submitted,

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Shannon Wheeler  
Economic Development, Town of Dover