Bi-Town Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
via Zoom & Deerfield Valley Rescue
Thursday, September 3, 2026

Members present: Christine Howe, Josh DeBottis
Members present via Zoom: Shannon Wheeler, Vicki Capitani, Gretchen Havreluk, Laura Sibilia (for Adam Grinold)
Also present via Zoom: Olga Peters, Sam Kondracki

A recording of this meeting can be found here: https://youtu.be/NRmqkpqalpI

Meeting called to order at 8:34 am by Chair Gretchen

- **I.** Public Comments: *None*
- **II.** Additions or changes to the agenda: *None*
- **III.** Approve minutes of May 7th meeting:
    a. Motion to approve by Vicki, second by Christine. Motion approved (Laura abstained)
- **IV.** Housing Committee Update:
    a. Shannon: Met May 21 and August 13; scheduled again for November 10. No big updates to share, working on some projects related to housing – ADU info, lot/property inventory. If you know anyone that may be interested in joining our group let me know.
- **V.** Marketing Committee Update:
    a. Gretchen: did not meet in August; meeting next week. Working on retiree segment test, GROW campaign work continues, groups/weddings info. Fall campaign starting shortly.
- **VI.** Economic Data Reporting:
    a. Shannon: Received a payment around August 8 of $81,477.34 for the period of May 4 to August 5; a 27% increase from last year's payment.
    b. Gretchen: up 21.64%, tempered by one extra day in the 2026 period and nine additional businesses submitting claims.
- **VII.** Other Business: *None*
- **VIII.** Wilmington Update:
    a. Gretchen: E Main St construction ongoing, GMP shifted to night work to reduce business disruption. Sidewalk/sewer is about two weeks from completion. Difficulty with Waters Excavating with traffic control. Wilmington Works Economic Development Committee is working on a budget for a grant to get for businesses. Bridge 31 construction rerouting option dismissed. Current plan is one way closure for a month starting April 2027. Project not fully funded and contractor not yet hired.
    b. Sam: Veterans Park work underway; additional stone was purchased to add names to as a fundraiser to close the funding gap. New resident hike happening September 19 at 1pm.
- **IX.** Dover Update:
    a. Vicki: Town wide reappraisal complete, around 25 grievances to be heard by Board of Civil Authority starting next week. Town paving is complete.
    b. Shannon: Board approved 20 DOIT program grants in June. Around half of those projects have been completed. DTAP, the technical Assistance grant program open for applications through the end of September. Recreation manager Gordon did some big work in Dover Town Forest, rerouting part of the loop trail to make it more accessible and sustainable. New maps in there, new trail blazes in there and Horace Hill. Working on new winter use trails in DTF and regular upkeep of the disc golf course in Horace Hill. Added a bike feature there using a felled tree from

one of the summer storms. Starting work on budgets, upcoming grants, and long term recreation planning. Summer concert series concluded.

X. Hermitage Club Update:

a. Josh: busy summer, lots of projects done. Warren Miller film fundraiser for Adaptive Sports on November 28. Community Ski Day raised $30,000 last year for local charities; goal is to exceed that this year. Contributing $10,000 to Deerfield Valley Rescue. Member opening day planned for December 12, weather permitting.

XI. Mount Snow Update: *None in attendance*

XII. BDCC Update:

a. Laura: New Business assistance hire Tim O'Neil. Lieutenant Governor candidate forum next week. Southern Vermont Capital planning roundtable on September 11. Young Professionals event at River & Rye Jamaica on September 17. High school Reality Fair October 6. Headshots and Handshakes for small business owners October 20. Deadline for CEDS. Project submission September 18. Get On Board civic training program applications due September 26.

XIII. Moover Update:

a. Christine: Last big event was fireworks, average ridership for that: 700-750 rides. Gearing up for winter, no route changes or cuts. Fundraising/long term planning; state funding flat. Hiring seasonal drivers.

XIV. Chamber Update:

a. Shannon: A good summer kick off to events, successful golf tournament 6/15 and fireworks and mixers. Next mixer September 15 at 1Mtn. Wine & Harvest is coming up quick, Soup Stroll Friday 18th, Festival Saturday the 19th at Mount Snow. Pacing ahead in ticket sales, hoping for good weather and more volunteers if you can contribute at all we would appreciate it. Let me or Pam know. Fiscal year ending, membership invoices will be going out. Looking for additional board members; Steven O'Hern leaving the area.

b. Pam: New Reidel wine tasting event at Hermitage Inn before Wine & Soup stroll.

XV. Motion to adjourn by Gretchen, seconded by Vicki at 9:13 am.

Next meeting November 5th

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wheeler
Economic Development, Town of Dover