Community Development Committee
Minutes from meeting: 17 July 2014
Location: WRC Conference Room

Committee present: Norm Wright, Greg Brown, Rod Francis, Gretchen Haverluk, Roger Turner, Edie Mas and Jane Morano Purdy
Staff present: Susan McMahon

Called to order 4:05 pm

1. **Introductions/Minutes Approval**
   The minutes of the 13th of March 2014 were approved.

2. **Final Report on EDA Disaster Recovery for Southern Vermont**
   S. McMahon updated the Committee on Southern Vermont Tropical Storm Irene Recovery Project. Susan explained that she was in the process of writing a final report on the project for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Her discussion highlighted the following:
   - The Flood Recovery Officers provided technical assistance and/or outreach to over 2,100 businesses.
   - The Southern Vermont Sustainable Marketing Program brand was developed following extensive interviews, focus groups and data collection and has resulted in the “Become a Vermonter” campaign.
   - The project exceeded the number of village and downtown designations that was initially projected (3) with nine designations and six more in process.
   - **Long Term Plans** - The project completed seventeen (17) Long Term Plans for the hardest hit villages and downtowns. Consultation occurred with three additional villages/downtowns that were not ready to go through a long term planning process.
   - Village/Downtown Workshops - The workshops in total had over 150 people in attendance with twenty-seven (27) communities represented. Village and Downtown Celebration was held on June 12, 2014 with over sixty (60) people in attendance.
   - Revitalize your village/downtown tools for southern Vermont communities website has been established (http://strengtheningsouthernv.wordpress.com/).

3. **Discussion on future projects for the Community Development Committee**
   The Committee discussed the following topic areas that they would like to work on in the upcoming year:
   - Working Landscape (forest and agriculture) – Build on the working forest group work
• Housing – Possible housing needs assessment and/or work with local housing commissions
• Village and Downtown Revitalization – Continue the work started with the EDA project
• VY and Economic Development – Assistance to municipalities

S. McMahon discussed that a presentation on housing that the state required all RPCs to present was poorly attended. She felt that there was some excellent information in the presentation and it might be a good idea to give the presentation at an upcoming Community Development Committee meeting. The Committee agreed and also requested that staff report back on what the Committee could do on the above topics with existing staff resources.

4. Update and Announcements in Topic Areas
   - Brownfields: A grant agreement was signed with Main Street Arts and a grant/loan agreement was signed with DVTA (Moover). Both agreements were for brownfields clean up funds.
   - Cultural and Historic
   - Infrastructure
   - Recreation
   - Economic/Community Development
   - Education: S. McMahon discussed that she attended a Windham Region Career Center meeting to discuss how the new STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) programs can be better integrated with the communities.
   - Human Services: S. McMahon discussed that she attended the Governor’s Conference on Opiate Addiction

5. Other Business/Next Meeting
S. McMahon discussed that Lynette Hamilton would like the committee to consider changing the meeting time to earlier in the day (morning or lunch). The Committee directed staff to poll the Committee about meeting times and keep the meeting date to the 2nd Thursday.

Next meeting scheduled for August 14, 2014 with the following topic areas:
• Housing presentation
• Future projects for Community Development Committee
• Windham County Economic Development Fund

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.