Community Development Committee
Minutes from meeting: 8 February 2018
Location: WRC Conference Room

Community Development Committee present: Edie Mas (acting chair), Roger Turner, Wendy Harrison, Robert McBride, Rod Francis, and Lynn Barrett
Guest: Sara Coffey
Staff present: Susan McMahon and Emily Davis

Called to order 4:35 pm

1. **Introductions/Minutes Approval**
   The minutes of 9 November 2017 was approved.

2. **Confluence Project**
   Sara Coffey, Vermont Performance Lab, and Emily Davis discussed the Green River Watershed’s Confluence Project. The Confluence Project is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of water and watersheds. It creates a platform for visual and performing artists, environmental professionals and planners, and educational institutions around southeastern Vermont (and also within the Green River) to co-create ways to educate people about our shared watersheds and inspire civic action.

   The Confluence Project is a collaborative effort between Vermont Performance Lab, the Windham Regional Commission, three schools in southeastern Vermont, and the Green River Watershed Alliance. The Confluence Project does two things:
   1) work with area schools to develop watershed curricula that integrates science and the arts,
   and
   2) hosts a suite of public events based on watershed ecology, science, and public arts initiatives.

3. **Village Sanitation Pilot Study**
   E. Davis explained that the WRC is working with the Rich Earth Institute to engage villages and community centers in the Windham Region in the Village Sanitation Pilot Study. The project is a new and innovative project that seeks to test, at a neighborhood scale, an innovative wastewater solution to address and improve faulty sanitation systems that hurt both the environment and homeowner wallets. The project aims to identify a good candidate village neighborhood for the program, identify barriers to adopting nutrient recycling or urine diversion systems, and provide custom pathways for installation.

   The selected Village will benefit from a feasibility study, conducted by the Rich Earth Institute, that will identify the challenges of and solutions to community-scale septic system alternatives. It is anticipated that this feasibility study will lead towards future water quality grant funding from State partners, which may help with installation costs. There will be no costs incurred by
the selected village to participate in this pilot.

Committee members were encouraged to help recruit applicants.

4. **Housing Training**
S. McMahon explained that as part of WRC’s contract with ACCD we have been asked to provide a presentation titled – “*Homes for All: Updating Municipal Policies to Improve Housing Opportunities*”. She handed out a copy of the presentation to the committee. The Committee discussed that they would like to have the presentation e-mailed and discussed at the March meeting. R. McBride asked if staff could give the presentation on his FACT TV show – *Everyday People*. Suggestions were made that Wilmington or Newfane would be good locations for WRC to present the housing workshop.

5. **Citizen Institute on Rural Design**
S. McMahon updated the Committee that she has begun to pull together a grant to work on VT 30 Corridor plan that would focus on Healthy Living by Design.

6. **Update Announcements in Topic Areas**
   - **Brownfields**: S. McMahon updated the Committee that the brownfields program has had 3 new sites for assessment and approvals of three grants and one loan for cleanup. She explained that another loan is currently under review.
   - **Recreation**: S. McMahon discussed that the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economy Council recently came out with a report/recommendations. The Committee would like to add that to their March agenda.
   - **Economic /Community Development**: S. McMahon updated the Committee that the Town of Guilford recently applied for a Better Connections Grant for Algiers Village. She also updated the Committee that she continues to work with the non-profits in Algiers Village on a vision plan.
   - **Human Services**: E. Mass updated the Committee that there is currently no new funding for Community Health Centers. However, the lack of available health care is a problem in our Region.

7. **Other Business/Next Meeting**
Based on feedback from a survey and a committee members attending the meeting a new meeting date of the 4th Thursday of the month @ 5:30 was agreed upon. (Unfortunately, Natural Resource Committee had recently moved their meeting date/time to that meeting slot.)
Next meeting – March 2018
Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.