Community Development Committee  
Minutes from meeting: 9 November 2017  
Location: WRC Conference Room

Community Development Committee present: Alan LaCombe (Chair), Roger Turner, Edie Mas, Laura Silbia and Lynn Barrett  
Staff present: Susan McMahon

Called to order 4:35 pm

1. **Introductions/Minutes Approval**  
The minutes of 14 September 2017 was approved.

2. **Rural Health Care**  
The Committee discussed federal designated Community Health Centers (CHC) and the status of these type of medical facilities in the Windham Region. E. Mas offered to do research on what is happening with CHC. The Committee agreed to keep this on the agenda for a future meeting for E. Mas to report back.

3. **Agricultural Economic Development Strategies**  
The Committee reviewed C. Campany’s concept paper on developing an Agriculture Economic Development Strategy and the example document from New York. The Committee discussed the possibility of developing an agricultural strategy for the Windham Region. A motion supporting staff to pursue funding to develop an Agricultural Economic Development Strategy was made by R. Turner and seconded by E. Mas. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Letter requests**  
S. McMahon explained that she recently received two requests for letters on consistency with the Windham Regional Plan. They were for:

- Dairy project seeking a Vermont Economic Growth Incentive (VEGI)
- Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) application to Vermont Housing Conservation Board (VHCB) for Flat Street, Brattleboro project

A motion directing staff to write a letter on consistency with the Windham Regional Plan for the dairy project applying to VEGI was made by E. Mas and seconded by L. Barrett. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion directing staff to write a letter on consistency with the Windham Regional Plan for the WWHT’s application to VHCB for Flat Street, Brattleboro project was made by E. Mas and seconded by L. Barrett. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Living Communities Challenge**  
S. McMahon updated the Committee that she has begun to pull together a vision plan based on the public input from the community and the four Algiers Village non-profits.

6. **Update Announcements in Topic Areas**  
   - **Brownfields**: S. McMahon reminded the Committee a workshop has been scheduled for November 17, 2017 in Brattleboro on *Environmental Due Diligence in Property Transactions: Best practices to protect your investment*
   - **Infrastructure**:  
     - S. McMahon updated the Committee that a November 29, 2017 - *2017 Vermont Wood Chip and Pellet Heating Conference* will be held in Brattleboro.
     - L. Sibilia discussed the Connectivity Summit that was held in Dover on telecommunications. She suggested that there is a need to develop a manual on how municipalities can go about encouraging more service in their town. S. McMahon and L. Sibilia discussed that this might be a manual jointly drafted by BDCC and WRC.

   - **Economic/Community Development**:  
     - S. McMahon handed out the C. Campany’s testimony before the Vermont Rural Caucus
     - L. Sibilia discussed that SEVEDs application process for CEDs project is currently open. New and renewing projects are encouraged to apply by January 2018 ([https://brattleborodevelopment.com/ceds-projects/](https://brattleborodevelopment.com/ceds-projects/)).

7. **Other Business/Next Meeting**  
The committee members attending the meeting asked staff to poll the Committee about the meeting time and date.  
Next meeting – January 2018  
Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.