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

Committee present: Lynn Barrett, Jodi French and Edie Mas
Excused: Jeff Lewis, Sue Fillion, Isaac Wagner and Robert McBride
Staff present: Susan McMahon and Chris Campany

1. Approval of 16 December 2010 minutes was postponed until next meeting.

2. Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategy
   C. Campany facilitated a discussion with the Committee on economic assets for the Region. Results of this discussion are attached.

3. Purposes & Objectives statement
   The Committee continued discussion on Purpose & Objective Statement. They discussed that they would like to take on additional work on agricultural issues specifically on value added food producers. Additionally, they would like to continue work on Low Impact Development. Due to small meeting turnout they postponed finalizing the Purpose and Objective Statement until next meeting

4. Discussion on Community Development Legislative Issues
   J. French discussed the issue about legislation that not-for-profit will be unable to get an exemption from sales tax. She explained that Charlie Goodwin brought this issue up in the Planning Coordination Committee in regards to the Weston Playhouse. The Committee asked that staff at future meetings provide updates on pending legislation and issues related to Community Development.

5. Update and Announcement in Topic Areas
   S. McMahon discussed that she has begun to explore applying for HUD/EPA- Regional Sustainable Planning Grant. She also discussed that she has been working with Jeff Lewis and others on exploring the possibility of establishing a regional redevelopment authority.

6. Other Business/Next Meeting
   With no other business to conduct the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.
Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategy – Asset Mapping:

- Connecticut River potential:
  - Recreational
  - Commercial/retail (in some areas)
  - Natural Cultural Areas
  - Petroglyph
  - Herricks Cove

- More Artist per capita in southern Vermont that are self supporting
  - Windham Region – Bureau of Labor Statistics shows them relatively higher income

- Human/Built Resources:
  - Empty buildings
  - Entrepreneurs
  - Space for reuse
  - Diversity of backgrounds

- Amenity rich for a relatively rural area

- Best hardwoods of state
  - Diversity of trees

- Passenger Rail
  - 1st stop in VT

- Short ride to major recreational areas
  - Green Mountain National Forests

- Higher educational cluster
  - (SIT)

- Holstein Association

- Latchis – one of 2 or 3 art deco hotels in Vermont

- Villages
  - Lived in, relative to other parts of the country
  - Cozy – tight river valleys

- Relatively medical service rich for a rural area
  - Access to primary care
  - Access to specialists

- Agriculture Diversity
- Small farms
  - Fresh food
  - Established & growing

- Unique locations relative to metro areas

- Super asset (combination of asset instead of separate asset)
  - Villages
  - Fresh produce
  - Proximity to metro
  - Food festival
  - Livable realism
  - Recreation very close

- Missing: speed & Capacity