Community Development Committee
Minutes from meeting: 22 September 2011
Location: WRC Conference Room

Committee present: Norm Wright, Edie Mas, Emily Kunreuther, Isaac Wagner, Richard Davis
Staff present: Susan McMahon

1. The minutes for April, June and August we approved. April and June were approved as
drafted and August was approved with a minor edit.

2. Windham Regional Broadband Plan - Update
   Postponed until next meeting

3. West River Valley Assisted Living Project
   The Committee reviewed and discussed the Valley Cares’ project to expand the West River
   Valley Assisted Living by 12 units. Valley Cares requested a letter confirming that the
   proposed project is in compliance with Windham Regional Commission policies for their
   upcoming Vermont Housing Conservation Board (VHCB) application. S. McMahon handed
   out a draft letter for the Committee to review. Edie Mas made a motion to approve the letter
   as drafted and directed staff to send the letter to VHCB. Richard Davis seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

4. Bellows Falls Downtown Designation
   S. McMahon explained that the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA)
   and the Town of Rockingham are currently in the process of re-designation of the Bellows
   Falls downtown with the State of Vermont. The Vermont Downtown Board has expressed
   some concern about the boundaries of the Bellows Falls Downtown District and BFDDA has
   requested a letter supporting the existing boundaries of the District. S. McMahon shared
   with the Committee a map of the Bellows Falls Downtown District. The Committee
   discussed that they have supported the District in prior applications and that the State needs
   to understand the geographic limitations (Connecticut River and terrain) that makes the
   gateway linear. Richard Davis made a motion to direct staff to write a letter to the Vermont
   Downtown Board supporting the existing boundaries of the Bellows Falls Downtown
   District. Edie Mas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Windham & Windsor Housing Trust – 213 Gage Street, North Westminster
   Isaac Wagener, Director of Housing Development for Windham & Windsor Housing Trust,
discussed their application to the Vermont Housing Conservation Board (VHCB) for 213
   Gage Street, North Westminster. The project is to rehabilitate the building and change it
from 4 units to a 6 unit building. He requested a letter for the project for the upcoming VHCB application. Edie Mas made a motion to direct staff to write a letter for the project. Emily Kunreuther seconded the motion. The motion passed with Isaac Wagner abstaining from the vote.

6. Update and Announcements in Topic Areas
S. McMahon handed out a chart titled Preliminary Irene Damage Assessment to Historic Buildings in Community Centers (Downtown and Villages). Preservation Trust of Vermont organized this initial assessment with support from State of Vermont, National Trust for Historic Preservation, University of Vermont, Regional Planning Commissions and engineering, architectural and historic preservation consultants. The Committee discussed the large number of historic buildings in our villages and downtowns that were impacted from the storm. The Committee also discussed the need for additional community development assistance for these communities.

7. Other Business/Next Meeting
With no other business to conduct the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for October 20, 2011.