Community Development Committee  
Minutes from meeting: 13 December 2012  
Location: WRC Conference Room

Committee present: Norm Wright, Gretchen Havreluk, Emily Kunreuther, Jenepher Burnell, Jane M. Purdy, Laura Sibilia, Roger Turner, Robert McBride and Lynn Barrett  
Guests: Paul Bruhn and Doug Cox  
Staff present: Susan McMahon and Cullen Meves

Called to order 4:05 pm

1. **Introductions/Minutes Approval**  
The minutes of 15 November 2012 were approved as written.

2. **Community Development – Tropical Storm Irene**  
   - *Status of Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Recovery Grant application* – S. McMahon reported that we recently heard that the $472,000 grant for Southern Vermont was funded.  
   - *Status CDBG Disaster Recovery* – L. Sibilia reported that Windham and Southern Windsor Regions business recovery grant for $1 million was funded.

3. **Community Supported Enterprises**  
   Paul Bruhn, Executive Director - Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV), discussed the history of PTV and the numerous historic preservation projects that they have been involved in since 1980. Paul explained that Co-ops are an example of community supported enterprises (CSE) that are found throughout Vermont. Often CSE model is used for businesses that are important gathering places (general stores, bookstores, restaurants) in small communities are hard to make work in the typical for profit model. He gave a few examples – Claire’s Restaurant (Hardwick), Putney General Store and other general stores. Paul also discussed that it is important to have a good business plan for these projects. He directed the Committee to PTV’s website for case studies.  

4. **Arts and Economic Prosperity in Windham County**  
   Doug Cox, President of Arts Council of Windham County, discussed the results of the report [Arts and Prosperity in Windham County](http://www.ptvermont.org/community_supported_enterprises/cse_hlj.php#). With direct spending of nearly $11million, the non-profit arts organizations of Windham County and their audiences are part of the local economy. The study shows that this spending provides the equivalent of 330 full time jobs in the county and yields $818,000 in local and state taxes. Americans for the Arts conducted the
study as part of its fourth national Arts and Economic Prosperity IV report. Doug explained that these numbers are not surprising and in line with a similar study done in 2007.

The $11 million of direct spending is the total of the $7.5 million arts organizations receive (from donations, tuition, tickets sales, grants, etc.) and then spend to produce their art and educational products (salaries, rent, insurance, paint, etc.). Added to that is the $3.5 million their audiences spend on such things as rooms, meals, souvenirs and babysitters when attending events.

5. Update and Announcements in Topic Areas

- **Brownfields** – S. McMahon updated the Committee that WRC submitted a $400,000 grant to EPA on December 3rd for the Windham Region Brownfields Reuse Initiative assessment program.
- **Housing**
- **Cultural and Historic**: Main Street Arts is in the process of selecting an architect for their accessibility project.
- **Infrastructure**
- **Recreation**
- **Economic/Community Development**
- **Education**
- **Human Services**

6. Other Business/Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2013 and the Committee will begin its review of the Windham Regional Plan starting with the Housing Chapter. Norm Wright asked Roger Turner to chair the Committee in his absence.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.