

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Steering Committee
June 19, 2014**

In Attendance:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectman; Carol Chamberlin, Planning Commissioner

Waitsfield: Chris Pierson, Selectman; Steve Shea, Planning Commissioner

Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectman

CVRPC:

Sugarbush: Margo Wade, Win Smith, Eric Hanson

Chamber of Commerce:

MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz, Dara Torre

Mad River Glen: Jamie Wimble

Others: John Hoogenboom; John Boyer, Partnership for Success; Sasha Bianchi, Vermont Dept. of Health

The minutes of May 22nd, 2014 were accepted as written.

Partnership for Success: John Boyer and Sasha Bianchi provided an overview of the goals of Partnership for Success, a statewide initiative to address risk factors for underage drinking and substance abuse. A community scan of the Mad River Valley revealed a need for more outreach to this part of the county. John has been interviewing individuals in the Valley, and was pointed in the MRVPD's direction for further input. Steering committee members suggested more integration and collaboration with local schools, and reported a lack of health data on the prevalence of alcohol and substance abuse in our community. Sasha offered to share available data, and described strategies in nearby communities (Waterbury, Barre), including the formation of a coalition and use of prescription drug take-back facilities. Members were asked to forward names of individuals or community organizations that could provide further insight. Joshua will collect these contacts and pass along to John.

Sugarbush Data Report: Margo and Eric presented the draft 2013-14 data report, which shows a continuing trend for strong skier visits and more peak days and "super peak" days (over 8,000 skiers). Members suggested reporting data for energy and wastewater through April to capture the full ski season. Margo and Eric said they have the data available to accommodate that request. Margo mentioned that the employee residence survey form was tweaked last season, and may have led to some confusion in the housing data, which shows a drop to 44% of employees in living in one of the three MRV towns. Water use data showed a spike in December and January when snowmaking was at its peak. Win added that the resort plans to pursue snowmaking gun upgrades that should result in significant energy savings next season.

Economic Summit Input Data: Joshua presented a slide show of data collected at the summit and from an online survey. Public comments were summarized and presented visually, showing a range of suggestions for each of the four topic areas, with strong preferences for increased indoor recreation options, recreation trails and bike paths, and enhanced retail and restaurant offerings.

Economic Vitality – Next Steps: Bob shared a proposed action plan for keeping the momentum going. He shared his proposal with Peter Hans of the Chamber, who was supportive. Bob outlined creation of a Mad River Economic Dashboard (“can’t manage what you don’t measure”) to provide timely insights for business owners; measurement workshops (possibly sponsored by the Chamber); meetings for each sector topic to explore interconnections (with the addition of the arts), to result in sector action plans for discussion in a wider forum, ultimately crafting recommendations for the MRVDP and policy makers. The group discussed engaging the Chamber and new business owners in the Valley. Bob will share a draft Dashboard plan and circulate to steering committee members.

Director’s Report: Joshua reviewed the activities described in his report, including VDAT project honors (VPA Project of the Year) and recent solar awards for Warren and Waitsfield. He expects the SGIA final report to be available shortly, and mentioned an upcoming Municipal Planning Grant deadline in September.

Next Meeting: The group discussed omitting a July or August meeting. Joshua and Dara will circulate a Doodle poll to determine.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dara Torre