



**Bellows Falls Downtown  
Development Alliance**

PO Box 924  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
802.460.2333  
[BFDDA@sover.net](mailto:BFDDA@sover.net)  
[www.bellowsfallsvt.org](http://www.bellowsfallsvt.org)

2017

**Mary Helen Hawthorne**

Executive Director  
[bfdada@sover.net](mailto:bfdada@sover.net)

**Kim Bovill**

President  
[shonagrill@gmail.com](mailto:shonagrill@gmail.com)

**Lamont Barnett**

Vice President  
[auknight@sover.net](mailto:auknight@sover.net)

**Emily Abbott**

Secretary  
[emily.abbott1188@gmail.com](mailto:emily.abbott1188@gmail.com)

**Pat Fowler**

Treasurer  
[seaotter@sover.net](mailto:seaotter@sover.net)

**Marcia Austin**

[flowers@sover.net](mailto:flowers@sover.net)

**Michael Bruno**

[michaeljosephantiques@hotmail.com](mailto:michaeljosephantiques@hotmail.com)

**Sonia Comstock**

[sonia.comstock@td.com](mailto:sonia.comstock@td.com)

**Kristen Fehrenbach**

[kristen.fehrenbach@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.fehrenbach@gmail.com)

**Doreen Stoodley**

[doreen.gfrcc@gmail.com](mailto:doreen.gfrcc@gmail.com)

**Development Director**

Adjunct  
[development@rockbf.org](mailto:development@rockbf.org)

Re: BFDDA Membership support

Membership support is an important element of the revitalization of the downtown district in a community. In becoming a member, you help provide vital support for the work and projects of Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA).

Under the direction of Executive Director, Mary Helen Hawthorne, and energetic and dedicated volunteer board members, committee chairpersons and supporters we are hard at work improving and promoting our attractive downtown area. Our strong ongoing collaboration with businesses and organizations, as well as individuals, the Town of Rockingham, Village of Bellows Falls, and the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce allows us to further our mission.

Very briefly, in this past year BFDDA:

- Prepared and defended the renewal application for BF's downtown designation, which was granted for another 5 years with very positive reviews
- Provided assistance to several new businesses that have opened in downtown
- Through Downtown Designation, helped leverage tax credits and code improvement awards (this year \$100,000) for downtown businesses and/or property owners
- Promoted BF through advertising, sponsorships and a new rack card displayed in many locations including Guilford and Hartford Welcome Centers
- Our Facebook page has become a great tool in engaging the community
- Partnered with the Chamber at Rockingham Old Home Days
- Decorated downtown for the holidays
- Ran a very successful Shop Local program that encouraged over \$300,000 of local spending tracked on completed cards alone
- Improved directional parking signage to long-term parking lots
- Continued to advocate for re-opening of Vilas Bridge

Contact us with your questions and suggestions. We welcome new members with new ideas and enthusiasm. Please join us.

Again, we thank you for becoming a member or renewing your membership and for your support of the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance.

For the Board,

*Mary Helen Hawthorne*

Mary Helen Hawthorne, Executive Director