June 27, 2012

Dear Colleague:

One of VCDA’s goals is to showcase community success stories as a way to highlight creative ideas in economic and community development. I am writing to invite you to participate in just such an event on July 19th, 2012 in Hardwick, Vermont.

Hardwick is a success story by any measure and has a lot to show-and-tell. The visit on July 19th will give you a chance to see firsthand what strides the town has taken in the last few years. Through unique partnerships, hard work and a clear vision, Hardwick is a great example of a community which has successfully repositioned themselves towards a brighter future.

A guided tour around Hardwick’s downtown will provide you the opportunity to hear from those local leaders who are involved in bringing about this change. The event will conclude at The Center for an Agricultural Economy, where exciting programs are underway that offer opportunities for the region as a whole. The day includes ample time to engage in discussions about lessons learned and best practices.

Come and enjoy a day in Hardwick learning about their recent past and the actions that have strengthened their community. Make your reservation today to join us on July 19th. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Mathew Barewicz

Mathew Barewicz
President

Directions: Junctions of VT routes 14, 15, 16.
Parking: Memorial Building, corner of N. Main and Church Streets. Park in front of building or next to library on Church Street. Also Masonic Hall parking lot kitty-corner from Memorial Building.
9:00    Registration and refreshments - Memorial Building

9:30    HARDWICK - A SUCCESS STORY!
Welcome and overview - Jon Jewett, Town Manager
Andrew Meyer, VT Soy Company. "How business corroboration is engaging a local economy around food and agriculture".
Cindy Donlon, Principal, Hazen Union High School. Ag Academy (many community partners)
Ross Conley, Publisher of the Hardwick Gazette, family owned. Historical perspective/changes

10:30   Walk through downtown……

Restored Hardwick Inn - Larry Hamel, owner, private $$, Historic Preservation Tax Credits. No longer an inn, home to a clothing store and several small businesses.
Buffalo Mt. Co-op - one of oldest in state
Halls Market - family owned, expanding to process meat on site
Bemis Block - Kathy Beyer, VP for Development, Housing Vermont – affordable housing - CDBG funds –
Galaxy Book Store – Linda Ramsdell, owner
Main Street commercial/residential renovation projects, owners Michael and Claudia Gohl. Former dry good store (101) owner built brick building (87) circa 1895. Renovations are privately funded, historic tax credit eligible. 87 will include a restaurant and six luxury apartments; 101 will include retail and commercial office space.

Interesting note: third floors on all the Main Street buildings are full!

12:00   Lunch - Claire’s Restaurant (CSR) - remarks by Veronica Medwid, Manager

1:30    Return to cars, drive to Food Venture Center and Vermont Soy Company

2:00    VT Soy Company- Andrew Meyer – RBEG funds
Food Venture Center – overview and tour by Monty Fischer, Ex. Director, The Center for an Agricultural Economy and Heidi Krantz, VT Small Business Development Corp.

3:00-3:30 Wrap up

VCDA wishes to thank these event sponsors!
Gold Sponsor: High Meadows Fund
Northern Community Investment Corporation
Registration Fee:
VCDA Members - $25.00 (per person)
Non-members - $35.00 (per person)

Name(s):
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Position: ____________________________________________________________

Municipality/Agency/Firm: ____________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

Telephone/Fax: _____________________________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________________________

Method of Payment - Checks payable to VCDA
Circle VCDA membership status:  Member        Non-member

☐   Payment Enclosed*
Check # ________________
Check $ ________________

☐   Pay at the Door
*Please note that a service fee of $10.00 will be added for those requiring an invoice.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RETURNED OR MADE BY FAX OR EMAIL
BY July 12, 2012 to:

Theresa Bachand - VLCT
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