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—For section.....Voices/Viewpoint
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Windham communities invest in SeVEDS through
2 municipal funding

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Town Meeting season has wrapped up, and communities
6 across Windham County continue to demonstrate strong,
7 collective commitment to regional economic development
8 through municipal investment in the Southeastern Vermont
9 Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) initiative.

10 Each year, staff from BDCC attend Selectboard meetings
11 and Town Meetings across the region to update Selectboards on

12 regional activity and programs that have previously received
13 municipal investment.

14 Staff speak to a funding request of \$3 per full time
15 resident of each town in the Windham Region to support regional
16 economic development. This collaborative funding model
17 enables BDCC to provide strategic, coordinated efforts that
18 strengthen the regional economy, support local businesses, and
19 expand workforce opportunities.

20 Town appropriations directly support key initiatives such
21 as the Pipelines and Pathways program, which provides career
22 education to all five of the regional high schools and some of the
23 elementary and middle schools; regional BizConnect meetings
24 that help local small businesses connect with resources and
25 support, and the Southern Vermont Economy Project, which
26 provides technical support and training for locally driven projects
27 and organizations.

28 Funding requests for fiscal year 2027 were approved at
29 March Town Meetings in Athens, Brookline, Dover, Dummerston,
30 Halifax, Jamaica, Londonderry, Marlboro, Newfane, Putney,
31 Readsboro, Rockingham, Stratton, Townshend, Vernon,
32 Wardsboro, Weston, Whitingham, and Winhall.

33 The Brattleboro and Wilmington selectboards separately
34 approved funding requests from designated economic
35 development funds.

36 For a grassroots organization like SeVEDS, the support
37 across the region is critical. Broad municipal funding helps create
38 a regional approach, where programs can help solve economic
39 and community development issues that are beyond the ability of
40 a single municipality to address alone.

41 Partner organization Brattleboro Development Credit
42 Corporation (BDCC) leverages the annual funds raised by SeVEDs
43 many times over by matching municipal support with
44 philanthropic, private, state and federal dollars, in addition to
45 funding from BDCC revenues.

46 Thank you to each of the towns that supported SeVEDs
47 this year.

48 For more information on BDCC and SeVEDS programs
49 visit brattleborodevelopment.com; for information on the
50 Southern Vermont Zone and CEDS, visit sovermontzone.com.

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