

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

April 2015

Revenue

Nothing to report.

Beautification

There is some concern regarding hangers for flower pots on the Dover Park street lights. The concrete poles are both tapered and fluted. This presents a problem to retrofit a hanger. We will continue to find an appropriate solution. The company can add the hangers, as an option, when the poles are fabricated.

Holden Engineering has sent their contract and it is being evaluated by the town attorney.

Events

Mothers' for Daughter's will not be coming for an event grant this year. I am told that they will apply in 2016.

Marketing

A pilot program to attract video companies to shoot Internet related material in Dover has been approved by the Selectboard. There will be 4, \$3000 grants awarded. Each will require a minimum 3 day shoot in Dover and the crew is required to stay and eat in Town. We added a provision that the video must contain a 3 second clip at the beginning of the video indicating that it is sponsored in part by a grant from the Town of Dover.

BMW has given us their reimbursement for expenses incurred during the commercial shooting.

Robert Shea has purchased a bench from the donations program in memory of his parents, Jack and Enid Shea. The bench will be placed along Route 100 near the bridge that crosses the Deerfield River. We anticipate the bench to be installed in mid spring.

DASP

FY '14 – '15

To date 14 applicants have applied for \$22,253.92 of the \$24,000 in DASP funding. To date we paid \$9,906.83 in rebate amounts.

Do-It

FY '14 – '15

16 businesses have applied for and received Do-It funding. The program is now committed for \$38,500 and is closed for this fiscal year. To date, we have paid out \$14,500 in Do-It funding and have a balance of \$24,000 remaining for FY 2014-2015.

Bi-Town

A proposal was made for creation of a Bi-Town Marketing Committee to market the Southern Vermont Deerfield Valley via the Chamber of Commerce Website. Marketing would be financed through a 10% grant from both Dover's and Wilmington's 1% Option Tax Revenue with a minimum 2 year commitment. Based on recent revenue statistics, this would consist of \$50,000 from Dover and \$25,000 from

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Wilmington. The Bi-Town Marketing Committee would be comprised of representatives from Dover, Wilmington and the Chamber of Commerce. Details of the program will be worked out and presented to the Dover and Wilmington boards for discussion and approval.

A suggestion was made to consider that municipalities fund the installation of fiber optical cable and lease it back to interested suppliers such as Fairpoint, Sovernet and Duncan Cable. This approach needs further research and vetting.

Telecommunications

In an effort to continue to increase available Internet bandwidth for our residents and visitors, we are evaluating how we can increase service to 100 Mbps down. In a follow-up conversation with Cliff Duncan, he has defined where he has installed both 288 and 96 count fiber optical cable in both Dover and Wilmington. The next step is to identify an initial area where Dover would like fiber to the home and then identify the costs associated with that.

Justin McCoart will install the repeater on the Dover Town Hall as his schedule permits and the weather eases.

Website

Nothing new to report

Trails

Dover/Wilmington Trail:

Additional trail maps have been ordered for the upcoming hiking season.

Valley Trail A:

The process has been extremely slow to get approvals from the state regarding plans for the sidewalk. We had a meeting where we learned that the state highway department never responded to the plans. They made several additional requests that will be included in the final plans. These plans will be sent to the state from the engineering firm of Lamoureux & Dickinson by the end of the week. It is expected that the state will take at least 30 days to approve the plans. Our experience is that it takes much longer for every step. At that point we will develop contract bid plans that must be approved. The typical timeframe for advertising the bid process is 3 weeks. All plans are submitted and approved in a serial fashion. It is my understanding that a contractor would not be picked until July. I'm also told to expect that construction could take up to 3 months and that it is problematic to begin construction close to the fall due to weather issues, potential early frost, cement curing and possible road salting if the weather turns inclement. Vtrans is suggesting that construction should take place in the spring, 2016. We are trying to have construction take place in the late summer of 2015. This will depend upon how quickly Vtrans approves the remaining tasks. To date this process has been extremely slow.

To date we have spent \$99,260.30 of the \$118,208 engineering study. This leaves \$18,947.70 remaining on the engineering contract.

The current plan includes installation of conduit for street lights. We should use the same dark sky compliant LED lights as used at the Dover Park. There are 17 lights needed and the cost for this is approximately \$52,000 plus installation. I will attempt to estimate the increased electrical consumption from our experience at the park.

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We have inquired about trees and shrubs along the “A” section of the trail and have been given VTrans’ Landscape Guide and guidelines for plantings along this route. In addition we are have the contact information for Vtrans’ Landscape designer and the District 1 Project Supervisor who will work with us regarding acceptable planting locations. We will try to integrate landscaping in the “A” section from our Landscape Architectural Plan.

The current cost estimate for the project, without any appraisals, payments to property owners or street lights, is listed below. Roger has developed an updated cost estimate and is reflected below.

Valley Trail A Minus: Dorr Fitch to Tollgate Village and Valley Trail B Plus: Mountain Park Plaza to Stugger Rd:

We have just received the countersigned grant agreements from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS). We have prepared the RFP for the scoping study on B+ and anticipate that the study will occur during the summer, 2015.

Roger Dickinson has completed half of the engineering design for trail A-. He still must include the bridge design. His work to complete the project is not covered under the grant application. This is because we would need to rebid the work which would take an inordinate amount of time. We are waiting for Roger to develop a budget for the costs involved with finishing the design work on A-. Construction on this phase could take place in 2016.

Trails P&L

Item	Cost
Trail A	
<u>Revenue</u>	
Trail "A" Account	\$415,270.21
Federal Grant	\$300,000.00
Sub Total	\$715,270.21
<u>Expense</u>	
Current Construction Estimate	\$427,000.00
State Suggested Contingency	\$42,700.00
Resident Engineer	\$85,400.00
Remaining L&D Engineering	\$18,947.70
Street Lights	\$55,000.00
Sub Total	\$629,047.70
<u>Net Revenue/Expense Total</u>	\$86,222.51
Trail A- (Tollgate Village to Dorr Fitch Rd)	
<u>Revenue</u>	

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Trail "A-" Account (Local Portion)	\$32,500.00
Federal Grant Portion	\$263,510.00
State Grant Portion	\$28,990.00
Sub Total	\$325,000.00
<u>Expense</u>	
L&D Engineering	N/A
Bridge over Deerfield River	N/A
Resident Engineer	N/A
Construction	N/A
Street Lights	N/A
Sub Total	N/A
<u>Net Revenue/Expense Total</u>	
Trail B+ Scoping Study (Mountain Park Plaza to West Dover Fire House)	
<u>Revenue</u>	
Trail B+ Account (Local Portion)	\$3,300.00
Federal Grant Portion	\$26,756.00
State Grant Portion	\$2,944.00
Sub Total	\$33,000.00
<u>Expense</u>	
Engineering Study	N/A
<u>Net Revenue/Expense Total</u>	
	\$33,000.00

Venue

We have identified the bands for the 8 concerts this summer at the Dover Park. They include:

- Miles Band (Popular – Rock) July 5
- The Equalites (Reggae) July 12
- The Lonesome Brothers (American Rock) July 19
- Patty Carpenter and the Dysfunctional Family Jazz Band (Jazz) July 26
- Stockwell Brothers (Bluegrass) August 2
- Slippery Sneakers (Zydeco) August 9
- American Pop (Popular – Rock) August 16
- The Nines (Popular – Rock) August 23

A deposit for the swings has been sent as well as approval of the contract for installation. An installation date of the end of May has been selected.

Financial

Full statements are included under separate cover.