

Town of Dover Economic Development Venue Meeting Summary

*OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES FROM THE TWO PUBLIC FORUMS ON FEBRUARY 1,
2012 TO DISCUSS THE MEANINGS AND IDEAS REPRESENTING THE
DEFINITION OF "VENUE :*

1. WHAT?

1 PM FORUM;

15 ATTENDEES INCLUDING 3 STUDENTS FROM THE
DOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- MULTI-PURPOSE AND MULTI-GENERATIONAL
- SHOULD BE THOUGHT OF AS A GOOD TOWN INVESTMENT
- BIG TENT
- STADIUM
- CULTURAL/CONCERT CENTER
- FIELDS/SPORTS FACILITY
- ICE/ROLLER RINK
- SKATEPARK
- REC CENTER/YMCA/BOYS'- GIRLS' CLUB MODEL
- EDUCATION CENTER (E.G. FOR COOKING CLASSES)
- OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER
- EQUESTRIAN FACILITY (ALSO FOR DOG SHOWS)
- BALLROOM
- SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAT WE DON'T ALREADY HAVE SO AS NOT TO COMPETE WITH ANY EXISTING BUSINESS

6PM FORUM; 9 ATTENDEES:

- MULTI-SEASON AND MULTI-PURPOSE REC CENTER FOR ALL, FROM KIDS TO SENIORS
- SHOULD INCLUDE POOL, BASKETBALL, MEETING ROOMS, ROOMS FOR INSTRUCTION, KITCHEN
- MUSIC VENUE
- EQUESTRIAN CENTER
- SKATING RINK
- EXPANDED VALLEY TRAIL
- EXAMPLE OF SOUTHERN BERKSHIRES COMMUNITY CENTER REFERENCED AS A MODEL
- NEED TO DEFINE A DOVER-CENTRIC EVENT E.G. THE BLUES FESTIVAL OR A CAR SHOW

Town of Dover Economic Development Venue Meeting Summary

2. WHO FOR?

1PM FORUM:

- TOWNSPEOPLE
- WHOLE VALLEY
- KIDS
- SENIORS
- ALL PEOPLE
- MIGHT BE A FACILITY RENTED OUT TO GROUPS (WOULD NEED SOMEONE TO RUN AND ORGANIZE IF SO)

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6PM FORUM:

- ALL
- LOCALS
- YOUTH
- ADULTS
- SENIORS
- VISITORS
- SECOND HOMEOWNERS

3. WHERE?

1PM FORUM:

- LARGE ENOUGH SPACE TO EXPAND AND NOT TO BE LIMITED FROM THE BEGINNING; SPACE SHOULDN'T LIMIT USE OR IDEAS
- THINK LARGE TO DRIVE BUSINESS
- CENTRAL LOCATION IF A BI-TOWN EFFORT
- HOWE FARM BECAUSE IT'S AN "IN-BETWEEN" VALLEY LOCATION
- ON MOOVER ROUTE (OR ABILITY TO GET TO MOOVER)
- ACCESS TO SEWER AND WATER
- BEHIND SCHOOL OR LIBRARY - MUNICIPAL LAND
- ON PAVED ROAD VS. NON-PAVED
- LAND AVAILABLE ON ROUTE 100
- NEEDS TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC INPUT TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY
- AIRPORT
- DEPENDS ON WHAT KIND OF EVENTS BECAUSE OF ISSUES LIKE NOISE, PARKING, ETC.

6PM FORUM:

- DEPENDENT ON THE "WHAT"
- NEEDS A "DRIVER" TO ORGANIZE AND MAKE WORK
- AT FACILITIES ALREADY OWNED BY THE TAXPAYERS, E.G. THE TOWN HALL
- ALONG VALLEY TRAIL AND ROUTE 100

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4. WHEN? TO BUILD? TO START? TO FIND A PLACE?

1PM FORUM:

- START WITH SOMETHING FOR SUMMER USE FIRST - WINTER ALREADY TAKES CARE OF ITSELF
- BALANCE TOO SMALL A START VS. TOO BIG A START; NEED TO AVOID EROSION OF TIME, MONEY AND PEOPLE
- MULTI-PHASE
- IMPORTANCE OF ZONING
- POSSIBILITY OF FINANCING WITH MUNICIPAL BOND
- CONSIDER ECONOMIES OF SCALE, E.G. A SMALL OUTDOOR SKATING RINK VS. A PROFESSIONAL INDOOR RINK

6PM FORUM:

- THIS GROUP SKIPPED RIGHT TO THE FOLLOWING AND LAST TOPIC: HOW?

5. HOW? TO FINANCE? TO MAINTAIN?

1PM FORUM:

- THINK LARGE
- DEVELOP 501C3 NON-PROFIT TO DETERMINE THE “WHERE” AND “WHAT”
- FIND BUSINESS PARTNER TO FINANCE AND OPERATE
- UNREALISTIC TO DO AS A VOLUNTEER GROUP OR TO HAVE TO BEG FOR DONATIONS
- CONSIDER POTENTIAL LIABILITIES

6PM FORUM:

- CONSIDER FORMING A 501C3 NON-PROFIT
- “CELEBRATE THE SUCCESSES’ OF THE TOWN ALREADY AND CAPITALIZE ON
- THOSE
- ANY SUCCESSFUL IDEA WILL NEED A “DRIVER”