

Economic Development Update

January 3, 2012

Telecommunications

Fairpoint (Broadband to East Dover)

Fairpoint broadband installation is completed for zones 1 and 2. The initial reaction is elation from those affected and anticipation from those not affected (i.e. zone 3). I have asked Fairpoint to put together a more effective pricing package. Either reduce the cost of zone 3 or include other bandwidth increases for the Route 100 corridor to match the 15 Mbps equipment that was installed in East Dover. As of this writing, they have not yet responded. The cost for the zone 3 portion of East Dover is currently \$275,000.

Cell Service

I got an email from Earthtone in response to my several calls to them. They indicate that nothing is new on their end. Our offer to absorb the first 5 years of charges (\$60,000) for the initial carrier to use an Earthtone tower ends on January 19, 2012.

The temporary Verizon tower on Rice Hill has been removed, but the one from AT&T at Stub Thomas' property is still operational. I have spoken with Stub on this matter and he wishes to move forward with trying to make the AT&T connection permanent. The antennas have been mounted by AT&T on Stub's 100 foot tower and plugged into his electrical system at an increased cost to him of \$170/month. He is trying to recoup this from AT&T.

Nona and I are reviewing the Dover Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance as well as Act 248 to see how Stub's tower is affected.

VTEL

Nothing to report. I will raise the issue with FEMA at the January 5th bi-town meeting to use their influence to get an answer as to when Vtel will be installing East Dover with their LTE technology. I left messages with no return phone call. I think we should use our contacts with FEMA to try to gain some insight as to what Vtel is doing and when. They are operating under a Federal grant – someone should know.

Survey

The survey is on the town website under Work Plan and Selectboard Updates within Economic Development (<http://www.doververmont.com/work-plan-selectboard-updates>). I will plan a mid January public meeting to review the results.

eVermont

Wi Fi Hotspots

The folks at eVermont have been out of touch during the last half of December due to the holidays. I am requesting installation using Fairpoint's 3 Mbps DSL and the less expensive repeaters (recommended by Anaptyx) sometime in January. The MOU is not yet signed.

Website

The job description for the web coordinator has been included for your consideration.

Trails

The letters to the Valley Trail B+ abutters have been mailed out. We will wait to see the reaction and schedule a convenient meeting to explain.

Mike Purcell has met with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) regarding refurbishing the ridge trail between Mount Snow and Haystack with the construction of scenic overlooks along the trail. They walked the trail on December 23. The next step is to coordinate the plan with the USFS.

Beautification

We got 8 responses to our Landscape Architect RFP. The committee has met once and narrowed the selection down to the top 5. We will meet again on January 4th to arrive at the top 3 responses after re-reading the top 5 proposals and further substantive discussions.

We have had 1 response from a Valley Trail B+ homeowner who does not want this section of the trail on his property. We will reconsider the path and proceed from there.

An RFP for the flower barrels program is being drafted for the next Selectboard meeting.

Marketing

I have gotten comments from businesses that will be submitting applications for the DASP program. The ones in question indicated that they will apply for the maximum reimbursement of \$1500.

Events

Nothing new to report.

Interpretive Signs

The RFP was sent out to 10 sign makers with the changes requested by the Selectboard.

Financial

The December expenditures will be given out at the Selectboard meeting.

FEMA

Fema has summarized the responses from the Summit meeting of December 5 and is enclosed for your information. There is no date established for the next public meeting, but it will be discussed at the next bi-town meeting on January 5th.