

## **Economic Development Update**

January 7, 2014

### **Telecommunications**

The cell tower from AT&T has been installed at Stubb Thomas' property on Dover Hill Road. The antennas and other peripheral hardware need to be installed prior to the tower being operational. There is no specific date as to when this will occur, but we will continue to press for this and post the information on the town website as it becomes available.

### **Website**

Nothing new to report.

### **Trails**

A meeting was held with Vtrans and Lamoureux & Dickinson to review the federally mandated steps required for the Valley Trail Part "A". The preliminary plans are complete and will be submitted to Vtrans for approval by January 10, 2014. It takes Vtrans 3 – 4 weeks to review the plans and either approve or make changes. In addition, all properties that require either temporary or permanent easements can receive at municipal expense, an appraisal of their property to be used as a basis for compensation. A property owner can waive the appraisal if the value is under \$10,000 or is uncomplicated. These events are required before any substantive negotiations are made with the property owners. This is just a glimpse of the level of checks and balances needed to move forward with each phase of the project. It appears that with all of the activities necessary before construction bids can be acquired, a construction start in the spring of '14 is highly unlikely. A target date of spring '15 might be more realistic.

### **Beautification**

Now that the Economic Development budget has been approved, we will send out our annual RFP for the maintenance of the barrels. It is the intention that we add several new barrels in and around the town park.

### **Marketing**

We have only 8 applicants for the DASP program totaling \$10,924 of the \$24,000 allocated. This amounts to 45.5%. To date we have paid \$3,951.13. I continue to encourage businesses to apply for the funds, but with few takers.

As reported last month, we still have 10 of the 14 businesses for the 2013/2014 program that have already finished their projects and received the rebates. This totals \$23,848 of the \$32,500 allocated for the 2013/2014 fiscal year, or 73.4%. The remainder of the businesses will have until

June 30, 2014 to complete their projects. It is anticipated that the remainder of the businesses will complete their projects after the winter.

### **Events**

For the FY 2013/2014 we have committed \$34,382.35 against a budget of \$39,000, leaving a remaining total of \$4,617.55. That results in commitments of 88.16% of the events budget for FY '13 – '14. To date we have still not received the final Summary Report for last year's Mothers' For Daughters event. This report is supposed to be submitted within 90 days of the event to obtain the final 25%. That was August 19, 2013. They have repeatedly indicated that the report was sent, but to date we never received it. In that it is 6 months late, I'm recommending that the funds be forfeited unless an acceptable explanation can be offered. I sent another email requesting the information and why it is so late.

We have 2 new event applications submitted totaling \$22,500. Both events will have their 75% funding in the current fiscal year.

### **Venue**

A family of snowmen was installed in the Dover Park for the winter season, courtesy of Jim and Kathy Martin who also installed the window candles and other holiday decorations at the town offices.

### **Bi-Town**

Nothing new to report.

### **Revenue**

Nothing new to report.

### **Financial**

Full statements are included under separate cover.