

## **Economic Development Update**

February 7, 2012

### **Telecommunications**

#### Fairpoint (Broadband to East Dover)

Fairpoint installation of zones 1 and 2 are about 2 months old, they have indicated verbally to me that they have signed up about 111 households or about 50%. The indication is that additional households will sign up, but at a slower rate.

Fairpoint has also made a rather minor economic concession regarding the \$275,000 for zone 3. They indicated verbally that they would be prepared to give the town free internet service for the 3 wireless zone connections along Route 100 for a period of 1 year. This has a value of only about \$1200. They also indicated that the cost to upgrade Route 100 would be \$61,000. They are firming up the time frame that it will take them to do these areas. I will have these to present at the meeting. They do not have any plans to upgrade this equipment on their own for this year.

I spoke with Cliff Duncan regarding the possibility of him servicing Zone 3. Cliff indicated to me that the cost to him would be prohibitive. He needs to replace poles to allow him to achieve the required clearance among his cable, electric wires and phone wires (approx \$1000 per pole). In addition, his cost to lay cable in this area is approximately \$22,000/mile. He would also need to negotiate with Electric and Phone to achieve this. This sounds like a non starter. I also spoke with Cliff about increased bandwidth along Route 100. He indicated that he might have a solution as well. Route 100 and Zone 3 are mutually exclusive and competition is always good for pricing.

An alternative to both Duncan and Fairpoint is Vtel's initiative. I spoke with Dr. Guite regarding his plans for Dover as a result of my pressure on Vtel. He indicated, verbally that he would see this Dover going up by the end of 2012. He did not indicate available bandwidths or related costs. He also was not specific on service areas. I have not been able to follow up with him after this conversation even though I have pursued it through phone calls and emails. I will continue to attempt to get this information prior to our meeting. There would be no cost to Dover through the Vtel initiative. Of course, having substantive information from Vtel would give us potential bargaining position with Fairpoint which we do not have now. There is however a downside to delaying service to the 170 households in Zone 3.

#### Cell Service

I am pursuing the making the AT&T service on Stub Thomas' tower permanent through 2 sources I have at AT&T. Earthtone seems non-existent at this point.

#### VTEL

See Fairpoint.

## **Survey**

We held 1 public meeting on the town survey and had 2 residents attend in addition to several FEMA employees.

## **eVermont**

### *Wi Fi Hotspots*

eVermont is coming back to Dover on February 9 to revisit the first 4 repeaters, meet with the electrician and set a date for installation. All of the repeater agreements have been signed.

## **Website**

We have gotten 5 applicants for the Web Coordinator position and we will begin interviews starting on the week of February 6.

## **Trails**

The trial committee has met and we will be calling all of the abutter property owners along the proposed B+ corridor connecting Mountain Park Plaza to Kingswood.

## **Beautification**

We have selected a company to perform the Route 100 Landscape Architecture Study. We will detail the name and reasons for our decision at the meeting.

## **Marketing**

We have gotten 15 respondents to the DASP program and have exhausted the funding for Q2 of 2012. There are still limited funds available for the remaining quarters.

## **Events**

Nothing new to report.

## **Venue**

We held 2 venue meetings with poor attendance. The people who did attend were very engaging and had excellent suggestions. Bill Anton brought 3 of his upper grade students who are members of the student council. We will summarize the information that we gathered, but it still appears that there are a number of buildings that are under-utilized and venue activities need a driver ( a person or group with a passion or significant interest) to promote and coordinate the use of the facility.

### **Interpretive Signs**

We had 4 responses to the RFP and we will evaluate them and report back at the February 21 meeting.

### **Financial**

To be handed out at the meeting.

### **FEMA**

We are working on goals/projects in our respective sub-committee areas. Fema will hold another community meeting on February 12.