

Economic Development Update

March 6, 2013

Telecommunications

I spoke with Cliff regarding his upgrade to his entire network. He is still making changes and I will check in with him every couple of weeks to assess when he has completed the enhancements.

The airecards at landfill road are functioning fine. Data usage is minimal at both sites and does not come close to exceeding the 5 Gig allotted.

Cell Service

I had a conversation with Stub Thomas regarding AT&T's tower request via Act 248A on his property. I did not get a timetable for any processes moving forward. I will continue to follow up with this activity and report when information is available.

VTEL/Sovernet

Nothing new to report from Vtel.

I am supposed to meet with Gregg Noble sometime in March regarding redistribution of the bandwidth to either the school or library. No specific date has been set but I will contact Gregg shortly to set one up.

eVermont

Wi Fi Hotspots

Nothing new to report.

Website

Included with the report package is a preliminary usage report on the town website.

Trails

We will confirm a timeframe to apply for the grant to perform an engineering study of B+ and follow up with the application. Just to reiterate from last month's update, this will yield a "shovel ready" project to coincide with another grant toward late summer or early fall for the entire project. This of course would push the implementation to 2014 if we were to get the grant. We need a pedestrian bridge along Route 100 that could cost approximately \$100,000. Given our current workload with the park and landscape architecture projects, we should try the grant

approach to not only offset costs, but to stretch out the implementation. We still have had no responses regarding the abutter's letters from the proposed B+ trail.

Beautification

We have ordered 23 additional Skip Morrow banners to replace the snowflake banners in April when spring arrives.

We will review the RFP bids for barrel maintenance at our next Selectboard meeting.

Marketing

All applicants for DASP funding for Q3 have been resolved. For Q4, we have 4 unresolved applicants out of the 18 that applied. To date, we have a surplus of \$4,461.99.

We have received 11 approved Do-It applications totaling \$22,700.92. This represents over 90.8% of the budgeted funding of \$25,000.

All towns from Stanford to Ludlow, with the current exception of Readsboro have agreed to the Route 100 Byways state marketing designation. It is hoped that Readsboro will join the group to make it contiguous from Stanford through Weston.

Events

The Mount Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce has submitted an event grant application for the Wine and Harvest Festival to be held this fall. They are asking for \$8700. They received \$5000 last year and had an attendance of 2,225 visitors to the festival. They are looking to increase attendance to 3,000 visitors by concentrating on more marketing of the event. Last year, most of the attendees were from out of town and non second homeowners. This is very encouraging in that visitors are coming because of this event rather than going to the event because they were already here. It is recommended that the event be approved for \$8700.

Mothers for Daughters' has submitted an application for their event from May 16 – 19, 2013. They expect a participation of 450 or a 12% increase from last year. They are asking for \$7500 in event funding to be used for printing costs and tee shirts and other wearables. They indicate that over \$10,000 pieces of print literature will be distributed for 12 months following the event various motorcycle events. All sponsored materials will have the Dover logo. Although this is the 6th events that they have applied for funding, the event brings visitors back to Dover numerous times during the summer months. It is recommended that they be approved for \$6000. This is being done to demonstrate the effectiveness of events that exceed the 5 grant limit to increase attendance.

Venue

The Landscape Architecture committee is meeting to finalize a cost for the park in West Dover. We will then hold a public meeting to get input on the current plan. After considering any suggestions, we will present the proposal to the Selectboard for approval. We still anticipate beginning construction in the spring. We will then turn our attention to a phased approach for Route 100 and Dover Town Common projects.

Bi-Town

A meeting was held with Gretchen Havreduk, Scott Murphy, Ryan Holden, Mile Purcell and I to access a trail connection from Dover to Wilmington. A suggestion was made to access the trail via Airport Road which would require permission from the Partridge Run Association. Various snowmobile trails are being discussed in Wilmington as well. We meet again on March 7 to reconvene the discussion.

Revenue

The 4th quarter 2012 revenue numbers are in.

Meals and Rooms \$42,208.47

Sales Tax \$94,303.42

This represents a 13.6% increase in meals and rooms over the 4th quarter of 2011 and a 4.9% increase in sales tax over the 4th quarter of 2011.

It also represents a combined 7.4% increase for the 4th quarter of 2012 over 2011.

It also represents a combined 3.7% decrease of calendar year 2012 over calendar year 2011. This was due to the lower 1st and 2nd quarter 2012 revenues.

Financial

Full statements are included under separate cover.