

Economic Development Update

April 1, 2014

Telecommunications

Cellular Resiliency in Natural Disasters

Dave Malko, Senior Project Manager, VTA has decided to withdraw the offer to install the Cellular Resiliency system in Dover. They cite our current and future availability of both broadband and cellular service. They have limited funds and want to place the units in areas with little connectivity.

Website

Nothing new to report.

Trails

We had a meeting with Roger Dickinson and the other easement property owners to walk them through the trail "A" plan that was sent to Vtrans. There was some discussion regarding the crossing of Route 100 on the North side of Valley View Road/Crosstown Road intersection verses the South side. Initially, the south side was proposed, but was changed to the north side for economic considerations. We have reverted back to the south side to avoid a conflict with the Deerfield Valley Inn's needing a retaining wall on their property. They are vehemently opposed to the retaining wall.

Vtrans has sent numerous questions regarding the preliminary plan and Roger has answered them and sent it back to Vtrans. We are waiting for final approval before we can go into the Right of Way phase where we negotiate with the property owners in question.

We have been given a copy of the legal language that Vtrans would like to see. This will be sent to the town attorney along with the specific sections of each property owner's land that is affected and not in the state right of way. We cannot get any easements signed until the following approvals from Vtrans are obtained:

- The preliminary plan is approved
- The Right of Way plan is approved for each property

It is possible that the property owner will ask for an appraisal to assist them with negotiating a settlement with the town. The results of this negotiation could impact the overall cost of the project.

The update cost estimate for the project, without any appraisals or payments to property owners is as follows:

Revenue

Trail "A" account	\$358,392.51
Federal Grant	\$300,000.00
Total	\$658,392.51

Expenses

Current Estimate \$529,586.31

Project Credit \$128,806.20

Beautification

We still need to follow up on the following items that were reported last time:

On Tuesday, February 11, EDD met with Susan McMahon and Kim Smith of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) and Wendy Rae-Woods of the Brattleboro Development Corp. regarding strategies for village revitalization with grant money available in the wake of Hurricane Irene. Topics discussed included

- Revitalization project for the Village of East Dover:
A public meeting will need to be scheduled to discuss the nature of the revitalization project and subsequently, a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Enhancement Grant must be created to move forward toward securing revitalization grant dollars.
- Landscaping for Valley Trail A:
A LOI must also be written to secure funding for an Enhancement Grant.
- The Windham Region Brownfields Reuse Initiative (WRBRI):

Brownfields are land and buildings whose expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

WRBRI was established in 2000 with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Since that time the WRC has been working hard to promote vibrant communities by facilitating brownfields redevelopment. WRC Susan McMahon alerted EDD to funding available to support phase I assessment of site eligibility and phase II testing for extent of contamination. Phase I funding, approximately \$2,000 available to a private, public or non-profit party interested in the purchase of a property, researches the

historical use of said property to determine the likelihood that some form of environmental contamination is present. Phase II funding, approximately \$20,000-\$30,000 provides soil borings, soil sample collection, well water monitoring and ground water sampling to determine the presence of contaminants as well as testing for contaminants like lead and asbestos. Susan also noted there is funding available for clean-up. Examples where Brownfields funding would apply include sites that may have been previously used by a gas station or manufacturing associated with wood or paper. Following such a project, the property would then be eligible for state liability protection to the owner.

Marketing

The state has agreed to install directional signs to Dover at Routes 9 and 100 in Wilmington on both the East and West approaches. The state has indicated that by statute, there can only be 2 directional signs at any intersection. The following 3 locations already have the requisite 2 directional signs and therefore our request has been denied.

- Routes 100 and 30 in Wardsboro
- Route 30 and Williamsville Road
- Route 30 and Grimes Hill Road

We still have 10 applicants for the DASP program totaling \$12,660 of the \$24,000 allocated. This amounts to 52.8%. To date we have paid \$4,276.30. I continue to encourage businesses to apply for the funds, but with few takers.

The DO-IT program is again unchanged from 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. We will contact the remaining 4 businesses of this deadline.

Events

Mother's for Daughters' has just sent in their event application that will occur on May 15, 2014 – May 18, 2014. They expect 425 participants. They are requesting \$7,500. According to our event guidelines, events to be held in the 2nd quarter needed to be in no later than December 31 of the previous year. The application is 3 months late.

The Mount Snow Chamber of Commerce has just sent in their application for the Wine and Harvest Festival to be held on September 19 – 21, 2014. They expect 3,500 visitors to attend. They are requesting \$10,000. This application was received within the event guideline time frame.

We are currently \$12,145 over even budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014. Approval of these 2 events would add an additional budget deficit of \$13,125 for a total of \$25,270.

Both of these events will be discussed in the April 1st meeting.

Venue

Nothing new to report.

Bi-Town

Nothing new to report

Revenue

Nothing new to report.

Financial

Full statements are included under separate cover.