

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

May 6, 2014

Beautification

The first payment to Boyd Family Farm was made this month in anticipation of the flower barrels to be filled when weather permits.

No action has been taken on previously mentioned projects:

- Revitalization project for the Village of East Dover:
- Letter of Intent for the landscaping for Valley Trail A:
- The Windham Region Brownfields Reuse Initiative (WRBRI)

Events

Mother's for Daughters': The first payment in the amount of \$5,625 has been released. The event is scheduled for May 16 – May 18, 2014.

Wine and Harvest Festival: The first payment in the amount of \$7,500 has been released. They expect 3,500 visitors to attend.

We have currently spent \$64,694.95 on events for FY 2013 – 2014. This is currently \$25,694.95 over budget or 165.88%.

Marketing

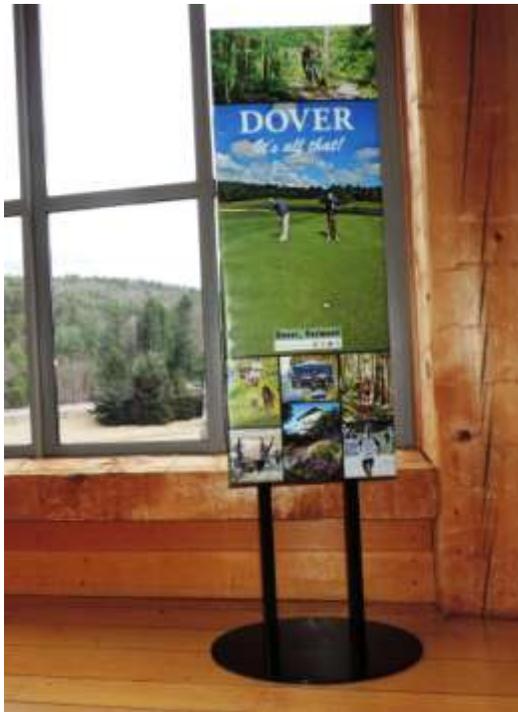
Directional Signage The state has agreed to install directional signs to Dover at Routes 9 and 100 in Wilmington on both the East and West approaches. A Traffic Shop work-order has been submitted to install "**West Dover - 6 Miles**" destination signs at the intersection of VT-9 (eastbound and westbound) and VT-100 northbound in the village of Wilmington. This should occur within 3 weeks.

We have 11 applicants for the DASP program totaling \$13,485 of the \$24,000 allocated. This amounts to 56.2%. To date we have paid \$5,823.30. 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.

The poster in Guilford has been installed and the billing period is May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015. The poster is on the back wall near the wood stove. Stands for rack cards are available to be placed next to the poster. The cost for a 9 x 4 rack card placed next to the poster is \$171 per year. The sample is shown below.

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Valley Cohesive Marketing & Branding

- The marketing firm of Arnett & Muldrow(A&M) has been hired to lead the Valley Cohesive Marketing & Branding project.
- The budget for this project is \$117,000.
- A meeting is scheduled for May 6th with the branding steering committee to review the planning steps for the project. First order of business will be to review the timeline and broaden steering committee to include stakeholders. Dover Economic Development will attend and be part of the steering committee.

Bi-Town

Ken Black was voted in as co-chair with Ryan Holton due to the resignation of Adam Grinold from the Mount Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce

As part of the June 7th 2014 opening of the Dover – Wilmington Valley Trail we will be including the following items:

- 1000 folded color maps for the trail
- 1000 Valley Trail stickers (3 x 4.5) denoting the slogan “Connecting Dover & Wilmington”
- Guided hikes along the Dover and Wilmington portions of the trail on June 7th
- Articles in the local newspapers
- Mailings to the Dover email list announcing the trail opening
- Installation of 10 kiosks with maps of the entire trail (4 – Dover, 6 – Wilmington)

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Telecommunications

The AT&T cellular tower on Dover Hill Road that was reported as operational in last month's report was mistaken. The reports of increased connectivity were due to testing of the system. There is a delay in running fiber to the tower and that has pushed the effective date to July, 2014.

There has been activity by VTEL at the Rice Hill tower owned by Green Mountain Power. Contractors have been installing electrical conduit to the site in preparation for antenna installation. This site will initially be for broadband service only. I telephoned Diane Guite, VP of Business Development (daughter of Dr. Guite) to inquire about timeframe, level of connectivity, costs and effective reach of their signal. She has not returned my call yet. I did however link up with Edie Mas of Marlboro who is also in contact with Diane Guite. Edie furnished me with an email relating to Vtel service. The following is an excerpt from that email to David Weinstein (Senior Policy Advisor to Bernie Sanders) from Diane Guite, on the subject of Vtel service in our area.

"I received Edie's email on Friday. The short answer is that both towers she's asking about are through permitting and under construction. Waiting for the steel to come in for Marlboro so we can start building. We should be on track to provide service to Marlboro by late summer, which is consistent with what we shared with Edie at the town hall meeting.

Dover is trickier. The site is through permitting, and we've started construction and have the equipment in market, but we won't be offering commercial service until the rest of the Dover cluster is ready. A key site that's part of a cluster, and will provide backhaul to Dover, is a site on top of Magic Mountain. After months of negotiations we finally reached an agreement and will be applying for permit to build a site on the top of the mountain (this will reach 1,000+ RUS homes), but it's unlikely we'll be offering commercial service from Dover until the other sites in the cluster are ready to come online.

My guess for Dover is late 2014, but Marlboro will be sooner given that the other sites in the Marlboro cluster are locked in and through permitting."

The access point at Lalyas for our wireless zone is connected to the lights on the sign along the Valley Trail, in front of the Inn. The cost to run the lights is prohibitive, according to Sandy McDougal. We are looking into other mechanisms to continue to maintain the access point at this location. The most attractive approach is to run Cat 6 wire to the Inn and plug it into an electrical outlet. The cost of this and other approaches are being evaluated.

Trails

Valley Trail A:

We just received an email that Nancy Avery, the project supervisor from the Vermont Agency of Transportation will be leaving her position as of May 2, 2014. Joel Perrigo will be involved until a replacement is found. It is unclear if this will delay progress on the project.

As of April 22, 2014, the preliminary plans for Valley Trail A have been approved by VTrans. Next steps are as follows:

- Draft easement deeds will be created by Roger Dickinson and submitted to Vtrans by Friday, May 2 for approval. The approval process is two weeks. Therefore, approval should be granted by mid-May.

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- A copy of approved easement will be sent to the town's attorney. Specific sections of each property owner's land that is affected will be noted. At this time, negotiations with property owners can begin. 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.
- To date we spent \$84,939.20 of the \$118,208 engineering design contract with Lamoureux & Dickinson. The remaining balance on the contract is \$33,268.80.

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

Valley Trail A: Dorr Fitch to Tollgate:

The Town of Dover may be eligible to apply for two different grant programs to complete the Valley Trail A across the North Branch of the Deerfield River to Tollgate Village.

1. Bike/Ped Grant

- \$ 4M Federal money is available for disbursement
- Funding: 90% Grant / 10% Municipal
- There is no cap on the \$ amount of grant
- Timetable for Grant Program:
 - End of April: Announcement Letter will be published on website
 - Mid-June: Applications are due
 - Mid-August: Grant recipients will be announced

2. Transportation Alternative Program (Formerly Transportation Enhancement Program)

- Very similar to the Bike/Ped program
- Timetable for Grant Program:
 - End of August: Announcement Letter will be published on website
 - Mid-October: Applications are due
 - Mid-January: Grant recipients will be announced

An RFP for a scoping study will be developed and sent out to area engineering firms for the B+ route of the Valley Trail. This will run within the state right of way on Route 100 and will start at the Post Office and continue to Stugger Road (West Dover Firehouse). Grant opportunities are available for construction after the scoping study is performed. This would also dovetail with the construction of the Route 100 Bridge at Blue Brook.

Venue

To kick-off the Town Commons beautification project, the topographical surveying services of Mr. Merrill Mundell have been secured. The site was visited last week but remaining snow prevented beginning the survey. Weather permitting, the preliminary survey should be ready for comments by mid-May with a goal of project completion by the end of May.

Financial

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Full statements are included under separate cover.