

Economic Development Update

May 7, 2013

Telecommunications

Nothing new to report from Vtel.

VTEL/Sovernet

Nothing new to report from Vtel.

I met with Gregg Noble from Sovernet on the bandwidth to the school and library. Redistribution of the bandwidth will cause the loss of federal funding. The school and/or library can put a repeater on their building to broadcast the signal, but cannot do another hop. The town could purchase wholesale bandwidth at these locations from Sovernet that is separate from these 2 grant situations.

eVermont

Wi Fi Hotspots

Justin McCoart from Up and Running Computer Services in Woodstock, VT came to review our needs for the Meraki equipment. He reviewed our current configuration, the intended zone completion, our Dover park needs and took a myriad of pictures to integrate with Google Earth. He will develop a formal proposal for the entire zone including installation. He mentioned that businesses in Woodstock supply a small amount of their existing bandwidth to the zone in exchange for advertising on Woodstock's splash page. This concept is being evaluated for feasibility within our zone.

Website

Work continues to streamline the website based on the wordpress templates provided by eVermont.

Trails

An application for a permit to construct a path along Route 100 for B+ was sent to Theresa Gilman at the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The initial reaction from the AOT is that we could need an engineering study to properly lay out the proposed route which will go from Country Club Road to Stugger Road along the state right of way on Rte 100. A pedestrian bridge is needed to cross the North Branch Deerfield River near Bluebrook Road. We are pursuing estimates for this structure.

Theresa Gilman has agreed to come to Dover to inspect the proposed location of the B+ path and recommend our next steps.

Beautification

The snowflake banner were removed and replaced with the custom banners from Skip Morrow. They can be seen along Route 100 and on Dover Hill Road in East Dover.

Marketing

There is still a surplus of over \$6800 of unclaimed funds from the DASP advertising campaign. This will be put back in the Economic Development fund balance for other uses. The program closed on March 31 and will resume on July 1 to coordinate with the town's fiscal year. There will be no advertising program for the 2nd quarter. The 3rd quarter still has 1 business who failed to submit their invoices for repayment. The 4th quarter has 1 business who failed to submit. The 1st quarter of 2013 has 5 businesses who failed to submit their invoices. It is expected that the surplus will grow since history indicates that invoices are typically less than projected amounts.

We have not received any Do-It invoices for the 2012/2013 period. The 2013/2014 period begins on July 1 of 2013 and we will accept applications starting July 1 2013. A public meeting will be held this month to discuss the program changes and applicable dates for both the DASP and Do-It programs that were approved by the Selectboard last month.

The Byways program along Route 100, including Dover, has been approved. The first statewide meeting is Monday, May 6, 2013. The state will install the Byways signs with no cost to the towns. The Department of Tourism and Marketing will develop a marketing plan for the Byways and brief the towns at the May 6th meeting.

Events

For the FY 2012/2013, we have spent \$45,758 against a budget of \$66,000, leaving a remaining total of \$20,241.

For the FY 2013/2014 we have committed \$19,312 against a budget of \$39,000, leaving a remaining total of \$19,687.

We have allocated \$34,501.50 in approved events occurring in the 2013/2014 fiscal year. This is against a budget total of \$39,000.

The Adventure Challenge event which begins on May 1 and runs through September 15 has pre sold just under 384 entry tickets sold including 160, 2 night room packages or 320 total room nights.

Venue

The DRB has approved the plans for the Dover Town Park. The Landscape Architecture committee has incorporated suggestions made at the public meeting on the Dover Park. We will

be discussing this at the next Selectboard meeting. We are currently writing the RFP's and contacting vendors to get appropriate bids for the various aspects of the park. These include:

- Playground Equipment
- Gazebo
- Landscaping
- Lighting
- Benches, Tables, etc
- Electrical
- Plumbing

The bids will be discussed at future Selectboard meetings in accordance with our purchasing policy.

Bi-Town

At the Bi-Town meeting we agreed that the signature name of the valley trail system be call the "Valley Trail". Individual sections might have an additional name for example Crosstown Section or Haystack Village Section. We agreed to walk the entire area as a group on 3 consecutive days to assess conditions and any other pertinent issues. The committee has secured most of the agreements for land use within Wilmington.

I have met with Bill Hayde of the Partridge Run Association to assess a trail via Airport Road to Haystack Village Road. This is part of the Dover/Wilmington trail project. Partridge Run Association has given us permission to use their land for this purpose. I have also met with Jim Barnes regarding use of a trail portion behind the airport hangers, should he ultimately purchase the property. He was very supportive of the effort. I still need to contact the current owner of the airport to see if this is acceptable to him, assuming that Jim Barnes does not purchase this property.

Revenue

Nothing new to report.

Financial

Full statements are included under separate cover.