

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
May 30, 2014

Revenue

The 1st quarter 2014 revenues are as follows:

| Meals & Rooms Tax | Sales Tax | Total |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| \$97,360.63 | \$130,685.77 | \$228,046.40 |

This represents a 1.9% decrease in Meals and Rooms and a 22.7% decrease in Sales, from the same period in 2013.

Beautification

The barrels for the summer flower program will be set in place during the last week of May and the plantings will start during the 1st week of June. We have added 6 new barrels at the Dover Park.

Events

The new event guidelines have been posted on the website and a note in the What's New section identifies the change. We are in the process of soliciting all of the current event participants to alert them of the changes.

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

Summer Concerts In The Park

The bands and dates have been solidified. The concerts will be held from 1 PM to 3 PM on the following Sundays. The rain venue will be the tent at Dover Forge. We have produced a poster and will advertise the event and utilize our e-mailing lists for promotion.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday, June 29 | Butterfly Swing Band | Dixieland and Swing |
| Sunday, July 13 | The Lonesome Brothers | Equal parts country swagger, wistful folk and breezy rock |
| Sunday, July 20 | Peter Miles Band | Classic funk, soul and rock&roll |
| Sunday, August 3 | American Pop | Classic rock |

Marketing

Directional Signage

The new state signs are in place at the intersection of Routes 9 and 100 directing traffic to Dover with the appropriate mileage.

DASP

We still have 11 applicants for the DASP program totaling \$13,997.54 of the \$24,000 allocated. This amounts to 58.3%. To date we have paid \$6,798.34. I continue to encourage businesses to apply for the funds, but with few takers. The new program begins again on July 1.

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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. The remaining 4 businesses have been contacted regarding the June 30 deadline.

Valley Cohesive Marketing & Branding

We will be attending the Marketing Roundtable on June 3rd.

Bi-Town

We have installed 2 of the 4 kiosks for the Dover/Wilmington Valley Trail. They are at the intersection of Crosstown Trail and Sherwood Forest Trail and on Handle Rd at Carinthia. There is a problem installing the remaining 2 kiosks. The town highway equipment is too heavy for the current soil conditions. We will be calling excavators with smaller equipment to assist.

We have received the stickers for the June 7th opening and ribbon cutting ceremony and the maps have been ordered. We will have these at Dover Town Offices and give some to Dover area businesses.

Telecommunications

We have not received any cost estimates to fix the repeater connection on the sign in front of Laylas. We will therefore be adding a repeater to the front of Palmiter's Real Estate business.

The current cost to install DSL at the Dover Town Hall is \$65/month for 15 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up at the business rates. The cost for 7 Mbps down and 768 Kbps up is 49.99. Fairpoint will waive the installation fee and we already have a modem.

Trails

Valley Trail A:

It appears that Joel Perrigo's replacement of Nancy Avery as our Vtrans interface has not delayed the project.

We had another meeting and invited all of the property owners whose properties were along the Trail A, whether or not they are affected by an easement. We had 10 property owners attend and used GoToMeeting with Roger Dickinson facilitating. The design plans were projected on the wall for ease of viewing. Roger addressed any questions and issues with property owners. This method of using video conferencing to facilitate the meeting was not only a very effective tool, but a significant cost saving. Roger was able to conduct the meeting in real time from his home without the expense of driving to Dover for a 2 hour meeting in the evening. Video and audio were available to the audience in real time.

Roger is currently researching a handicap parking issue and the trail's path in front of Town Offices. It seems that the handicap space where it is currently located needs 17 feet in width. This would put it inside the trail. It is already about 25 feet from the access ramp to both the Town Offices and the Church.

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

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- 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.
- 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:

Revenue

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Trail "A" account | \$379,948.05 |
| Federal Grant | \$300,000.00 |
| Total | \$679,948.05 |

Expenses

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Current Estimate | \$529,586.31 |
| Project Credit | \$150,361.85 |

Valley Trail A: Dorr Fitch to Tollgate:

The Town of Dover is 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

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- Mid-January: Grant recipients will be announced

We have spoken to Jon Kaplan, AOT Contracts Administrator regarding applying for the Bike/Ped grant to perform for the B+ route of the Valley Trail in addition to the A- sidewalk project that runs from Dorr Fitch Rd to Tollgate Village. The B+ project will run within the state right of way on Route 100 and will start at the Post Office and continue to Stigger Road (West Dover Firehouse). Additional 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. After speaking to Jon Kaplan, he indicated that we can apply for 2 separate Bike/Ped grants. These are both 90/10 grants and we have the possibility of having both awarded. Jon mentioned that if we are awarded the scoping study grant for B+ and we decided that we did not want to continue with the project, we would not need to repay the money. This is contrary to what was previously told to us. Jon mentioned that if awarded a design and construction grant, such as the sidewalk project from Dorr Fitch Rd to the start of the blacktop portion of the current Valley Trail, we would have to complete construction or repay the grant money. We intend to apply for both grants.

Venue

Merrill Mundell has just about completed the survey of the Town Common property. Once the survey is filed, we will begin to sent out an RFP to civil engineering firms to develop a Site Plan with Coordinating Details from the landscape architecture design. We will then be in a position to get accurate cost estimates for the project and have another public meeting to show the final plans before proceeding.

Financial

Full statements are included under separate cover.