

Economic Development Update

November 1, 2011

Telecommunications

Fairpoint (Broadband to East Dover)

Fairpoint is working on both Zones 1 and 2. There is no definitive start date for service, but it appears that they will meet the target dates of year end. Fairpoint wants to issue a press release (see enclosed) and is looking for a statement from a town official. Who is the correct individual to make the statement?

Earthtone (Cell Service)

Nothing to report.

VTEL

Nothing to report

Survey

Expect results in a few weeks from UNH.

eVermont

Seminars

The first seminar is set as stated below. The instructor has made her way to the library to view the layout.

VSC Social Media & Communication Tools for Beginners – Tuesday Oct 18 at 6PM

VSC Learning To Go – Saturday Oct 22 at 12PM

VSC Internet Safety Basics – Tuesday Nov 1 at 6PM

The first 2 seminars were successful, but not as good as the business oriented ones. The “Social Media” seminar had 8 attendees and the “Learning to Go” seminar had 5 attendees. No other seminars are planned this year.

Wi Fi Hotspots

Phil Petty, the program director and Steve Liggett, the site engineer came to Dover to test signal strength at various locations using line of sight repeater. This is the unit that is supplied under the grant. I asked about utilizing the other repeater which was recommended by my contact in

Woodstock. This is a non line of sight repeater used in high foliage locations. I was told that we would need to pay for the difference – about \$200 per repeater. Steve Liggett indicated that we would need 10 repeaters and 3 internet gateway connections to cover the area from Town Offices to Mountain Park Plaza. We identified 7 of the repeater locations as well as the internet gateway locations. Steve was having difficulty with the line of sight issue given the expanse along Route 100. I suggested using the more expensive repeater to make the connection job easier. There is 1 technical issue that Steve is going to evaluate. His experience is that the distance between repeater and client (laptop, smart phone, etc) is approximately 250 feet. The specs on the unit from the manufacturer indicated that the distance between repeater and client is 400m or ¼ mile. I am in the process of speaking with each of the business owners to secure their permission to put the unit on their building and to use their electricity to power the unit (approx cost is 7 – 14 watts or \$.75 – \$1.50 per month based on \$0.15 kWh). I am also in the process of speaking with both Fairpoint and Duncan cable regarding the cost of the internet at the desired locations. Phil Petty is going to get back to me with all specific costs and the final version of the MOU. To date, I have not gotten this information.

Website

I have made some changes to the website regarding organization and renaming categories such as changing Visit Dover on the front page to Business. I also moved Economic Development from Town Government to Town Departments. I have developed a structure for Economic Development and will implement as much as possible prior to the meeting. In addition, Linda has been vetting business lists including the state databases that I downloaded with our current list of businesses and those supplied by other individuals. Linda is personally calling missing businesses to get specific information for inclusion to the website and to let these business owners know that we are actively working on improving that section of the website. We feel that this will get us a reasonably comprehensive list of Dover businesses and we will update it as we get additional information on missing entries. The first pass should be completed by the Nov 1 meeting.

Trails

Linda has supplied a list of all abutter's names and addresses to update the proposed B+ map. We will be sending out a letter of introduction and contacting the owners to discuss the merits of a proposed walking and biking trail in the coming weeks.

A number of people on the trails committee did a 2 mile walk through the town forest. We will review the Conservation Commission Plan and proceed accordingly.

Beautification

We have already gotten some responses from Landscape Architects as to their intention to respond. One group from Burlington has already made a trip to the area to look around, take pictures and ask some basic questions.

Bright Lights is expanding and now goes from Readsboro to Wardsboro. Linda has gotten merchants to discount the cost of lights to businesses and has picked up the support of Sylvania. To augment or replace the lights on various municipal buildings and to add decorations to other Dover municipal buildings and structures (e.g. Valley Trail Bridge, Town Signs), we would like approval to spend up to \$2000 for these purposes. It is the intention to get as much donated as possible, but there will be some cost items.

Marketing

I have seen the first pass at the TV spot and expect an updated one from Kelly later today. I will send this to the board when I get the final ad spot. I will also send an agreement to be signed for the running of the TV spots. I am waiting to get it from the TV station and will send it to the board when I receive it.

A task force met to discuss the details of the cooperating advertising support program that Patrick had initiated. The group's comments were updated and we will reconvene on November 4 to hopefully finalize the elements of the program.

Events

I met with Jim Dassatti regarding his grant request and suggested improvements to it. Jim will review and make appropriate changes for presentation to the Board.

Interpretive Signs

RFP in progress. Nothing new to report.

Financial

Nothing to report.