

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE

4th Quarter 2017-2018 FY (April – June, 2018)

Revenue

The Town received \$246,708.13 in 1% tax revenue on May 17th for the previous quarter (February – April). Total receipts this year account to \$536,993.04.

This is an increase of \$33,393.78 over the same quarter last year and is 14.47% above the average for this quarter, which is \$215,520.

Administration

A job description for an internship has been posted with Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation.

- Have also been in touch directly with 7 local colleges regarding potential internships.
- Will be advertising the position locally in the near future.

The Town has also been working with BDCC on a Job Fair event to be held this fall.

Beautification

The barrels' program is currently underway, as 72 flower barrels have been placed in strategic locations around the Town. During the 4th quarter, \$15,864.33 was expended towards this program.

Events

The Town assisted two events during this quarter, including the Minus Zero Festival and the Dover Moto event. This was the first year for the Minus Zero Festival, which was a huge success. The Town sponsored the event in the amount of \$30,000. Over the three days of the festival, more than 18,000 people attended and more than 450 local rooms were booked for all three nights.

Dover Moto, which grew from the Mothers for Daughters event, was also a success. This event was sponsored in the amount of \$11,700. It brought in a few hundred people to the Town, most of which stayed at local inn's and ate at local restaurants.

Marketing

DASP

During the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2017-18, the Town rebated \$2,257.70 in advertising assistance to 7 businesses, which was leveraged by \$2,284.80 in private funds, for a total advertising investment of \$5,642.50. For the entire fiscal year 2017-18, the Town has rebated a total of \$11,298.49 to a total of 16 businesses. This was leveraged by \$17,458.95 in private funds for a total advertisement investment of \$28,757.44 for the year.

Do-It

Work has continued on the projects awarded funds through the 2017-18 Do It Program. Through that program, 17 projects are set to be complete, for an expected reimbursement total of \$48,644.01. The anticipation is that those will be paid out in the next month. For the 2018-19 year, applications were due by June 1st and the reimbursement limit was raised from \$3,000 to \$4,500 to encourage larger, more comprehensive projects. The Town received 20 proposals for a variety of improvement projects. 17 of those were awarded funding through this year's Do-It Program, including 8 façade projects, 5 sign projects, 2 paving projects and 3 landscaping projects. The 17 projects total \$103,626.03 worth of improvements, and the Town will anticipate reimbursing \$58,68.60 towards those.

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Bi-Town/Marketing Sub-Committee

Telecommunications

Expanded internet availability remains to be a focus for the Town. Duncan Communications presented a proposal at the Economic Development Meeting in May to expand internet capabilities to East Dover. Duncan is currently completing a number of projects in the West Dover area and they anticipate being almost fully developed in that area in the next few years. They would like to offer the same service and pricing to East Dover. The biggest hurdle is a lack of utility poles along the road network. The current pole network in East Dover relies on inaccessible easements for this type of network. A minimum of 320 new utility poles would need to be placed to make this area accessible for Duncan's network. The estimated cost for that is in excess of \$850,000. Duncan Telecommunications is asking the Town to consider sharing those costs to make the project feasible. Work will continue on this potential project.

The Town is also still considering an opportunity to offer 1 gigabit service to all of the residents in the Town, through Consolidated Communications. At this time, funding remains the focus. The anticipation is that a grant application will be available this fall through USDA and the Town will make an application for this project, as well as possibly for the Duncan project.

Trails

The Dover Area Recreational Trails (DART) Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. The focus of their work continues to be the further expansion and advancement of the Trails network within the Town. The primary project this group has been focused on has been the Trailhead Project at Handle Road. This project will create an important access point to the National Forest as well as the Ridge Trail. Preliminary discussions have been held with the National Forest Service, and survey work for the parking area has begun. In August, members of the National Forest Service will visit with the committee to further explore the opportunities of this important project.

Work continues on the next section of the Valley Trail, which is section A Minus from Dorr Fitch Road south to Tollgate Village. The town received a \$325,000 grant to construct a sidewalk and bridge from the west side of Route 100 at Dorr Fitch Road to the northern end of Tollgate Village. The design plans have been completed and have been approved by the State. Negotiations have begun between landowners and the Town. An RFP should be released this fall for the work to begin in Spring of 2019.

DART has continued discussion on a potential skatepark or other recreational facilities. It was discussed whether this should be part of the trails discussion or if it should be moved to the Venue focus area. A final determination was that it is not necessarily part of the Trails work itself and should be moved to a separate meeting. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

DART is also finalizing a list of tools and other equipment that is necessary for the continued maintenance of the trail.

Venue

For 2018, in continuation of the progress that the summer concert series has made, the town is sponsoring 12 performances, with ten on Sunday afternoons and two on Wednesday nights. The cost to put on the shows for the season will be \$10,625.00.

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Groove Project	June 17, 2018	Sunday, 1-3 PM	Classic Rock and Blues
Patty and the Cakes	June 24, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Jazz, Rock and Swing
Starline Rhythm Boys	July 1, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Vintage Honky Tonk and Rockabilly
The Lonesome Brothers	July 8, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Pioneer Valley Original Hick Rock
The Miles Band	July 11, 2018	Wednesday 6-8 PM	Original and Classic Rock
Abe Loomis Band	July 15, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Original Roadhouse and Country Blues
Gaslight Tinkers	July 22, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Celtic Rock
The Twangbusters	July 29, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Honky Tonk Swing
Stop Tito Collective	August 1, 2018	Wednesday 6-8 PM	Reggae, Rock, Jam and Funk
The Miles Band	August 5, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Original and Classic Rock
Three Way Street	August 12, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Acoustic Bluegrass, Swing and Cajun
Appalachian Still	August 19, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Bluegrass Rock Fusion
Trailer Park	August 26, 2018	Sunday 1-3 PM	Original Barbeque Rock

The idea of additional venues for events and recreation continue to come up. Two items of interest that have recently come up, have been the skatepark and a disc golf course.

The skatepark has been discussed for quite some time and grew out of the Trails discussions. There will be a meeting for those interested in developing a skatepark within the community in the near future.

Paster Jeremy Kirk presented a potential plan for a Disc Golf Course during the May Economic Development Meeting. Discussion revolved around the potential for a public course within the Town. This is a sport that is growing and can be played by people of various skill levels. It would be an asset to the community, and further discussion will occur once the plan is further developed.

Village District Renewal

Have recently reached out to the state about recertification and the process to do so. There is a statewide meeting scheduled for the fall, and further discussion is forthcoming.