

Economic Development Update

February 5, 2013

Telecommunications

The Aircards for the Landfill computers have been installed and are operational. I checked after a few days and fixed a problem Bobby Holland had with his email. I have not heard of another problem since that time.

As suspected, the \$35,000 Fairpoint price for Landfill Road, Woodsman Road and Woodsman Road Ext cannot be broken out to just Landfill Road. This is because the changes are made at the box, or central office as was done in East Dover. It cannot be localized to just one road. As a review, Cliff Duncan wants \$3,500 for just Landfill Road. At that point he would charge his typical \$40 per month per Internet connection. I would recommend seeing how the Aircards work at the landfill facility for a few months and then revisit the issue at that time. Of course, this still leaves the problem with Woodsman Road and Woodsman Road Ext. Once again, the problem is that both the telephone and electrical lines are buried in conduit within that complex. According to Cliff Duncan, there is not enough room in the existing conduit to run his cable for either TV or Internet. New conduit would need to be installed so Cliff could run his cable underground. Cliff will not run the conduit. The cost of \$35,000 from Fairpoint seems excessive for these roads. If desired, the next step would be to develop a cost to run conduit along these roads and then get a price from Cliff to run his cable. It is also unclear as to how many homes are there and how many would actually use the service. To date these costs have not been determined. There is also the possible Vtel approach – a wildcard at best.

I know of 2 homeowners on existing serviced roads whose residences do not get serviced because they are at the end of their respective roads. This issue should also be considered to achieve the 100% connectivity within Dover.

Cliff Duncan has made progress at increasing his bandwidth to existing customers. I have taken readings at several locations including Town Offices and some Inns and have observed speeds of 17 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up. I will speak with Cliff to see if his installation is completed and take some additional readings.

Fairpoint has sent the invoice for the final payment of East Dover Zone 3. This invoice has been paid.

Cell Service

Nothing new to report.

VTEL/Sovernet

Nothing new to report from Vtel.

I understand, although unconfirmed, that Sovernet is now looking at no later than July, 2013 to provide service to the school and library. There is still the possibility at distributing that bandwidth. I have nothing new to report until I speak with Gregg Noble.

eVermont

Wi Fi Hotspots

We will start to order the Meracki repeaters for First Trax, working our way south along Route 100, in the late winter and early spring. This will encompass the new West Dover Park with wireless service. We will then look to replace the old Anaptyx repeaters.

Website

Nothing new to report.

Trails

In speaking with Vtrans regarding the B+ section, we have learned that we need to do an engineering study for them to approve the section along Route 100 north from Mountain Park Plaza to Stugger Road. There is a grant opportunity coming up in the March timeframe to assist with the cost of the study. This will yield a “shovel ready” project to coincide with another grant toward late summer or early fall for the entire project. This of course would push the implementation to 2014 if we were to get the grant. We need a pedestrian bridge along Route 100 that could cost approximately \$100,000. Given our current workload with the park and landscape architecture projects, we should try the grant approach to not only offset costs, but to stretch out the implementation. We still have had no responses regarding the abutter’s letters from the proposed B+ trail.

Beautification

Several banners have blown off of their holders along route 100 and are missing. The banners in East Dover are still in place.

An RFP has been developed and advertised in both the Deerfield Valley News and Brattleboro Reformer regarding this year’s barrel project. The deadline for submission is February 15.

Marketing

All applicants for DASP funding for Q3 have been resolved. For Q4, only 7 of 18 applicants remain unresolved. To date, we have a surplus of \$4,604.32.

The dates for submission of applications for DASP for Q1 of 2013 have been extended until either all funds are exhausted or time has expired to effectively release an ad.

We have received 10 approved Do-It applications totaling \$21,845.92. This represents over 87% of the budgeted funding of \$25,000.

The final version of the Byways Corridor Management Plan is available and will be sent to you for approval. Approval needs to be sent to Windham Regional by February 12, 2013 for Dover to be included in the Byways program.

Events

It is anticipated that there will be an increase in both the number and amounts of events. There are 3 current events to consider and it is anticipated that there will be at least 4 other event applications. This of course is inconsistent with the budgetary reduction that events comprise verses other projects. We will need to take a very critical look at the events as they come in and make reasonable recommendations accordingly.

The Blueberry Parade is asking for \$6000. Last year, this event was awarded \$6000. It was an excellent event and well attended considering the hot weather. This year, the Chamber will be counting heads along the parade route to try to get as accurate account of the participation. This will help evaluate any future event grants.

This is the 50th anniversary of the West Dover Firehouse. It is the intent to combine the celebration with that of the Blueberry parade. They are asking for an additional \$2000. It is recommended that they receive \$2000 to be used for additional bands, fire trucks and firehouse specific prizes for the celebration.

Living History Timeline has asked for \$2500 for their annual event. They wish to hold the event during the Blueberry parade day. Last year, the attendance was only 150 for this event. It is recommended that they be given \$1000 and required to produce an accurate count of everyone who actually enters the encampment to view the event. The attendance will dictate future grant funding.

The Dover Historical Society is asking for \$2000 to promote an event during Blueberry week on July 27 and 28 and their main event on October 12. In addition, they will have the Harris House open on Saturdays from 12 – 4 from Memorial Day through Labor Day. They received \$1500 last year for their main event in October. It is recommended that they be given \$2000 for this event.

It is anticipated that we will receive at least 4 more event applications. They include Wine and Harvest, Mothers For Daughters, TV and Film Festival, and North Hill Summer Plant Symposium

Venue

The Landscape Architecture committee is meeting every week to develop a detailed plan for the West Dover Park with associated costs and a timeline. We will then turn our attention to a phased approach for Route 100 and Dover Town Common projects.

The East Dover Fire Department has decided to not move forward with plans to develop part of the land across from the firehouse.

Bi-Town

A meeting was held with Gretchen Havreluk and Scott Murphy to access a trail connection from Dover to Wilmington. The Dover portion could wind through existing Mount Snow trails that extend off of the Crosstown Trail in Dover. This would require Mount Snow's approval. One of these trails, "Little John" actually crosses into Wilmington. We will discuss this approach at the next Bi-Town meeting to see what any next steps might be possible. Among the topics to consider is routing the trail down to the center of Wilmington, proper signage, usage of the trails, and marketing. The costs to both towns will need to be considered.

Financial

Full statements are included under separate cover.