

Dover Select Board Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Hall
Tuesday, Dec 3, 2019

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE DOVER SELECT BOARD

Select Board members present: Josh Cohen, Victoria Capitani, Joe Mahon, Sarah Shippee

Select Board members absent: Dan Baliotti

Also, present: Office Manager, Jeannette Eckert

Public: Lauren Harkawik, Shannon & Sadie Wheeler, Bob Holland, Randy Johnson, Marco Tallini, Steve Neratko, Mike Purcell, Sean Kellerson, Jim McDevitt, Barbara Hyde, Paul Fisher, One Smith, Randy Capitani, Mike Garber, Connor Garber, Edie Mas, Marco Tallini, Andy McLean, Tim Shannon, Justin Hongell, Bob Stone, Richard & Carla Tousey, Tabi Freedman, Ben Joyce, Jeremy Kirk, Steve Petrik, John Morton and Rachele McKnight from Weston & Sampson

Community Meeting with Weston & Sampson
Called to Order at 6:00pm by Select board Chair Josh Cohen

I. Trails and Venue Plan (Rachele McKnight and John Morton)

A. Review Progress and Hear Recommendations

Project goals:

- Create a comprehensive trails and venues master plan to meet the recreational, economic and community needs of Dover
- Develop a phased implementation plan over a 10-15-year horizon

Project process:

- Inventory/Assessment; Community engagement; Visioning/draft master plan; Financial plan/final master plan

Response to survey:

- 317 total responses from the online & paper survey
- Survey was open between 8/7/19 to 11/20/19
- 100% completed the survey all the way to the end
- 34% full time, 34% seasonal, 14% visitors, 18% work in Dover but live elsewhere
- What makes Dover unique: Mount Snow, community, family vibe, warm & caring, skiing, restaurants, hometown feel in a resort community
- Criticisms: No distinct "downtown"; some good and not so good restaurants

Trail use:

- Valley Trail, Ridge Trail, Crosstown Trail, VAST Trails

Parks and Recreation Visitation & Usage:

- Dover Town Park—playground, concerts, picnics; however limited parking and close to main road
- Dover Town Forest—solitude and quietness; variety of usage; poor accessibility
- The Dover School—playground, safe area, some not aware of activities especially if don't have children

Strengths:

- Groundskeeping, Free or low cost, Not commercialized, Proximity to State Forest
- Mt Snow, Town Park, Wilderness, Bicycling, Skiing, Backcountry, Clean well maintained, Continue trail efforts

Weaknesses:

- Not a lot to do for different age groups, not much diversity, no indoor rec center, public transit doesn't connect East and West Dover, not enough mountain biking,

Valley trail is segmented, little access to water, restrooms, lack of communication on what is available

Desired offerings:

- Disc golf, ice skating, skate park, year-round pool, dog park, tennis, playgrounds, outdoor shopping, town fairs, equestrian, camping, pickleball

Desired trail improvements and new trails:

- Connections between trail networks—63%
 - Expand into East Dover
 - Private land access
 - Parking at trail heads
- Multi modal access—51% (walking, biking, snowmobiles, skiing)
 - Linkage can be challenging given the elevation of the area
- Connections to commercial areas—40%

Top desired improvements to facilities:

- 4 season use—55%, restrooms—44%, pedestrian/bicycle connections—43%

Top 3 areas of focus:

- Develop existing parcels-61%
- Establish partnerships with nearby municipalities—58%
- Develop diverse recreational opportunities—53%

Top 3 new facilities: Advertising/communication critical

- Disc golf—49%
- Ice skating rink—46%
- Backcountry skiing trails—46%

Conflicts:

- Snowmobiling vs muscle powered sports, eliminate unsafe facilities

Stakeholder recommendations:

- Homeowners (full time & 2nd homeowners), condo associations, landowners, forest reps, business leaders, Mt Snow, community youth, disc golf, SOVTA, VAST, sports shops, historic groups, conservation commission, WRC, SB, Town offices, School reps

Key issues from stakeholder meetings held July 16, 2019:

- Multi-purpose trails, accessibility, family friendly, economic drivers--diversity, Dover identity, marketing strategy, 4 season use, multi-generational programs, venues, scalability, nodes of interest, additional recreational opportunities, improve existing trails, way finding, connectivity, visitor outreach

Inventory/Assessment:

- Desktop review
 - Previous town plans, economic assessments, USFS documents
- Mapping
 - Town mapping, regional planning, SoVTA
- Field Assessments
 - Ettliger property, town forest, town park, Dover school, Valley trail, Crosstown trail

Trail counts: Windham Regional Commission

- Crosstown trail—Handle Rd (over 12 days—average 4 users/day)
- Crosstown trail—Crosstown Rd (average 3 users/day)
- Sherwood Forest Trail--(average 3 users/day)
- Valley Trail
- Deerfield Ridge Trail
- Dover Town Forest

Observations/Recommendations:

- Ettliger property—50 acres on Route 100

- Prime location for family style activities, close to town center, potential disc golf location, steep terrain, wet conditions
- Town Forest—1392 acres on Rice Hill Rd
- Nordic skiing potential but severe terrain, untapped potential
 - Improve signage—critical in all areas
 - Reconfigure trails for multi-use, expand parking, trail from town center to forest very costly/logistically difficult to construct

The Dover School

- Potential is there for more than what is already present, playground, sports field, opportunity for other activities, clarify school versus public use, adequate parking

The Dover Park—1.1 acres on Route 100

- Great visitor signage, excellent central location however limited parking, create accessible route to key amenities in park, playground in good condition, public art anchors, improve landscape, provide restroom facilities

Valley Trail

- Signage not consistent, Gaps in trail, Potential use conflicts, Variety of surface types
- Ensure trail leads to commercial/cultural amenities
- Establish consistent surface per user type wherever possible

Crosstown trail—6 miles

- Significant elevation change, change in surface type—may discourage lower skill users, improve signage and connections to other trails

Sherwood Forest trail

- Wet areas, very slick under snow cover, advanced skill levels, contemporary mountain bike trails, reroute trails away from sensitive wetlands

Overall observations/recommendations

- Excellent location, capitalize on proximity to major cities; 4-season economic opportunities are lacking; provide disc golf, skate park, connections to historic amenities, water/aquatic amenity, multi-generational opportunities

Next presentation in January 2020

Public comments:

- Survey idea: Send to the Dover School as well as area Middle/High Schools to get feedback from the kids
 - Send survey home, create public forum & ask the kids directly
 - Need the input of the young as this will be for them
 - They have a lot of ideas
- Disc golf—may not be known by everyone in this area
 - Popular and all over the place; incorporate along the trails
- Gaga ball – combination of dodge ball, wall ball and hand ball
- Dover Town common property—not incorporated in your recommendations—should be included, between 5-10 acres of wooded open land; piece of property that the Town owns
- Swimming pool—public one rather than private
- Outdoor Skating rink—bonfires, hot chocolate, great experience
 - Maintenance issues with an outdoor skating rink
 - Moover can get kids back and forth to it
- Pickle ball—very popular in Wilmington
- Maps—comprehensive mapping strategy is needed
- Adaptive Center at the Mountain is going strong—may want to reach out to Executive Director Pam Green; trying to expand the program for summer

Additional comments are welcome! Please feel free to reach out to Weston & Sampson

Next steps:

Draft master plan & more finalized recommendations

Final master plan will complete the contract with the Town

Regular Meeting of the Dover Select Board

Called to Order immediately following the Community meeting at 7:10pm

Public Present: Lauren Harkawik, Shannon & Sadie Wheeler, Bob Holland, Randy Johnson, Marco Tallini, Jim McDevitt, Tabi Freedman, Laura Sibilgia

I. Public Comments: none

II. New Business:

A. Update from BDCC (Laura Sibilgia)

Laura Sibilgia presented a regional and local economic data summary on what programs BDCC is working on

- BDCC asks surrounding towns to contribute with the development of these programs both financially & with human resources & reports back to the towns
- Summary focus is on population change & income, local and regional employment and jobs base
- Dover has seen a drop off in population; many towns in our area have seen a decline of 5% or more, others have seen a 10% or more growth
- Town worker flow: 767 people live elsewhere but work in Dover; 174 live and work in Dover; 361 live in Dover but work elsewhere
- Most residents work in either state of residence or county of residence
- Number of jobs has been fairly stable
- Majority of businesses employ 1 to 4 employees
- Majority of people (170) employed fall in arts, entertainment, accommodation and food services, (116) in educational, health care and social assistance, (91) in construction
- Town wages by sector: average wages in Dover have risen from \$23,616 in 2007 to \$28,555 in 2017. However, Dover's average wages lag behind both the County and State averages
- Less than 50% of the population of Windham County derived their annual income from the local economy; higher than average wealth, higher than average poverty
- 2019 annual report—data, statistics, information and trends that are being seen
- Resources available: Community facilities technical assistance program grants; intern programs, knowledge bites, pipelines and pathways programs
- So. Vermont Economy summit will take place in Dover again next year at Mt Snow
- Will follow up with a letter of request to include an article at Town Meeting for funding

Comments:

- Housing Survey was very sobering: median income in Dover is \$40,000; population decline; concerning trends
- How was the data compiled on the employment and wages---it seems skeptical? Substantial number of retirees in Dover; Earned income figures from what resource?

Laura: Source is Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program—believe it is a State program. Laura will research and report back

Household income by population is from U.S. Census bureau figures 2011-2015; Dover was under counted

III. Treasurer: Marco Tallini

A. Authorize Tax Sale for January 9, 2020

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Sarah Shippee, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize a tax sale for January 9, 2020

B. Authorize Town Agent to Purchase on The Town's Behalf, If Needed

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Sarah Shippee, the Board unanimously authorized the Town Agent Linda Holland to act on the Town's behalf if needed and desired

IV. Consent Agenda:

A. Approve Minutes of November 19, 2019 & November 21, 2019

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Sarah Shippee, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of Nov 19 and 21, 2019

B. Approve Warrants of Nov 30, 2019 for \$168,187.40

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously approved the warrants of Nov 30, 2019

Discussion on invoice for pumps at the garage

- Last time it was done was 20 years ago
- Upgrade to allow for chip reader on the pumps

Paving Landfill Rd—will discuss at capital plans meeting

V. FYI:

A. Next Events at Town Hall: • Dec 4—Surly Temple, 6-8pm

- Dec 7—Dover Holiday Craft Fair, 10am to 4pm
- Dec 11—Open Mic Night, 6-8pm
- Dec 18—Wyld Nightz, 6-8pm
- Dec 12—Holiday Community Meal at the Dover School

VI. Liaison Reports: none

VII. Executive Session for Personnel: Randy Johnson

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Sarah Shippee, the Board unanimously agreed to move into Executive Session at 7:38pm

Present: Joe Mahon, Josh Cohen, Vicki Capitani, Sarah Shippee, Randy Johnson, Jeannette Eckert

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Josh Cohen, the Board unanimously agreed to move out of Executive Session at 7:39pm

Decision:

On a motion by Victoria Capitani, seconded by Sarah Shippee, the Board unanimously agreed to increase the pay rate for Frank Dornburgh to \$21.00 per hour effective Dec 1st

VIII. Adjournment at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Public notices of these minutes have been posted at the following locations:
Dover Town Clerk's Bulletin Board, Dover Town Meeting Bulletin Board, Dover School
Dover Free Library, East Dover Post Office, Town of Dover Website: www.doververmont.com