

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
October 16, 2018 at 6:00 pm
AGENDA

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes of October 2, 2018 (5 minutes)
3. River Corridor Ordinance (15 minutes)
 - *The Planning Commission Chair to discuss a possible River and Flood Corridor Ordinance.*
4. Health Insurance (30 minutes)
 - *The Finance Officer to discuss health insurance plan options for 2019 and the Selectboard to possibly approve a health insurance plan.*
5. Living History Association (10 minutes)
 - *James Dassatti of the Living History Association to discuss their plans for a historic trail and possible funding options.*
6. Stump Jumpers (10 minutes)
 - *The Selectboard to possibly approve the annual request by the Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers for the use of town roads for snowmobile access.*
7. Action Items (20 minutes)
 - *The Selectboard to discuss setting a date for a combined meeting with Water District to publicly discuss and sign the MOU.*
 - *The Selectboard to discuss letter from Dover Selectboard and possibly agree to meet on November 13, 2018.*
8. Correspondence to/from Selectboard
9. Other Business
10. Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items (5 minutes)
11. Town Manager's Updates (10 minutes)

Historical & Recreational Park Ideas

The Mission: to bring the history of the Deerfield Valley to life for the educational enjoyment of the public and to study and interpret it as a cultural microcosm that reflect the history of our nation.

The Goal: is to use historical interpretation of the Deerfield Valley in such a way, or ways, that it brings new pride from its citizens as well as a new economic vibrance.

How to begin: This must be started small so as to keep each task simple, with easy explanations of what is being done and how to do it and by making the tasks at hand believable rather than grandiose.

Through the tourism & LHA publication “Celebration Times / Living Historian” promote:

A. Self-Guided historical tour by utilizing the historical society museums, currently marked sites, and by marking more sites in the valley.

B. To promote Deerfield Valley history and historical societies in such a way as they are encouraged to increase the professionalism of their displays and storage methods, increase their hours of operation, increase their exposure to the public, and increase their ability to work and assist each other as well as to work together on specific projects. All manner of grants should be sought to promote our projects and the projects of our Deerfield Valley Historical & Recreational Park not for profit “partners”. Logical early (beginners) projects where labor, promotion, and grant funding could assist and where that assistance would make an impact on the mind-set of the local population, might be:

a. Continued museum work at the Dover Historical Society (DHS) building. Develop the site as a starting point for the Deerfield Valley self-guided history tour that has kiosks of historical information in four communities; Dover, Wilmington, Whitingham, & Readsboro. The tour can be made so that you can start at any point where “partner” organizations are located, but guide materials will need to reflect where the most visitor services are located, which would make the lodging and restaurants of Dover a logical starting point. (LHA secured a grant in 2013 for DHS to install a new, efficient furnace so that the building could economically operate in the colder months, provide better care for its artifacts, and the building. That grant also provided funds to build a stone berm in the back yard so as to keep flood waters from the brook out of the yard and building. The grant was matched by the Town of Dover. Total costs for grant and match was about \$14,000.00.)

b. Assistance with the restoration of the East Dover School House to be operated as an early one room school house by the Dover Historical Society in the context of a living history interpretation of what school was like in a particular decade of time. This should have an active program of scheduled tours for local schools as well as a regular and special events schedule for tourists.

c. Assist the Wilmington Historical Society Museum with normal maintenance until other needs are determined. A major kiosk should be erected at the site of the former colonial era village as **Wilmington is the only town of the four that has a clear pre-Revolutionary War history**, ties between Colonel Williams of Wilmington and Ethan Allen of Bennington, the New Hampshire and New York Land Grant Conflict, and the Battle of Bennington. These elements are very unique to Vermont’s early history and provide a one of a kind history. There are houses in Wilmington that date back to that time period which someday would make great living history museums.

d. Open a dialog with the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum to promote environmental issues from forest and wildlife conservation, to clean energy and home-grown food resources.

- e. **Open a dialog with the Whitingham Historical Society** and encourage them to further develop their museum for the better care, display, storage and interpretation of their artifacts.
- f. **The Readsboro Historical Society Museum (RHS) through the LHA has applied and received a \$500.00 grant from the Deerfield Valley Rotary for new display cases, & mannequins, to improve their artifact exhibits.** The RHS through LHA also received a Vermont State Grant for a new furnace, the heat from which will help preserve the building and the artifacts it houses. The Town of Readsboro paid for 50% of the \$5,000.00 cost. The RHS matched money to the \$4,000.00 of the Town of Readsboro for the renovation of the rest room and a large display room. These improvements make this museum a fine southern anchor to the proposed self-guided historical tour.
- g. **The E.J. Bullock Building in Readsboro owned and operated by Readsboro Hometown Redevelopment (RHR) presents the largest challenge for any organization along the historical tour.** The main floor of the building is used as an “education, arts, and community center” only in the summer months. Since 2006 the group has raised in excess of \$300,000.00 which has largely gone into clean up and structural stabilization. The building is now clean and sound but still looks in much need of repair. The building has no heating system and none of its four floors are in a finished state. RHR has raised more money in 2018 than most previous years, and plans to solve the heating problem, as well as the front façade between now and the end of 2020. A grant of \$20,000.00 for the front façade was applied for and received by RHR from the State of Vermont. Another \$65,000.00 still needs to be raised. The LHA took on the heating system and basement costs of some \$57,000.00 and received a grant from the State of Vermont for \$25,000.00 to hire contractors to get the job done. LHA also applied for and received a \$500.00 grant from the Deerfield Valley Rotary for RHR to purchase the dishes, flatware, and so on needed to hold fund raising dinners thereby immediately adding to the success of this past summer’s “Murder Mystery Dinner Theater” hosted by RHR at the building. Today this building still has much work to be done, a great deal more money to be raised and spent, but its four floors hold perhaps the greatest potential of any organization on the trail.
- h. **From 2017 through October 2018 Readsboro Hometown Redevelopment has been involved in the creation of the Southern Trail Head for the 300 mile long, Massachusetts boundary to Canada, hiking and cross country trek known as the Catamount Trail.** The trail only passes through one village in its entire length, that village being Readsboro where Readsboro’s portion occupies the former rail bed of the Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington Rail Road. To create the Trail Head RHR applied to the bank that was holding the mortgage on a house, garage, and 15 acre lot. The bank granted RHR ownership plus \$10,000.00 to take it off their hands. RHR offered the site to local fire and rescue companies for training and with several departments taking part the buildings were burned down in a weekend of training. The money was used to clean up the site. RHR applied for and got a small state grant to create a hard pack parking lot with an informational kiosk about the trail and services available in the local village. The project was officially opened October 6, 2018.
- i. **Re-establishment of LHA educational programs and getting program equipment under cover.**
- j. **Promote area State Park camping & recreational facilities, places to picnic, and activities as well as other valley events of interest to the public, both historical and non-historical events.**
- k. To use the publication and web site to promote LHA and other partner organization’s retail sales via mail order and online advertising while allowing the web site to publish business advertising.
- l. Promote the LHA’s involvement in history by bringing hobbyists, buffs, and professionals to the Valley, and to create a general appreciation of history among regular visitors and tourists.

Historical & Recreational Park Of the Deerfield Valley

Proposed Article for Town Warrant – Wilmington
For voters in the Town of Wilmington only.
To be voted upon at the March Town Meeting

Petition is for inclusion of the below article in the Annual Report of the Town
Officers of Wilmington and thereby to be voted upon by the resident voters.

ARTICLE __ (BY PETITION) To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the
sum of \$ _____ or any other sum for the support of matching grant funds that promote
tourism and acquired through LHA's DBA, "Historical & Recreational Park of the
Deerfield Valley" for the research, placement, and construction of historical markers
and/or kiosks within the Town of Wilmington to be linked to a self-guided historical trail
which will include other towns along Route 100.

These the voters of the Town of Wilmington do so petition:

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

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Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers Snowmobile Club
P. O. Box 1329
Wilmington, VT 05363-1329

October 5, 2018

Scott A. Tucker, Town Manager
P. O. Box 217
Wilmington, VT 05363-0217


Dear Scott:

The Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers Snowmobile Club (DVSJ) along with the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) request permission to operate snowmobiles along portions of town roads in Wilmington, Vermont for the winter season of 2018-2019. By your letter dated December 7, 2017, the Town of Wilmington granted permission to operate snowmobiles along portions of town roads during the winter season of 2017-2018. We are requesting that the same permissions be granted for this upcoming season.

Your letter also outlined the agreement between the town and our club whereby we will repair a portion of East Dover Road every five years after it is resurfaced by the town, to repair any damage done by our groomer. The first year for repair by us was agreed to be 2019, and the town is to resurface the road in 2024-2025. We note that we will need to contact the Wilmington Zoning Administrator to obtain a Right-of-Way permit, and contact Bill Hunt by January 1, 2019 to coordinate the work.

Please contact myself, mobile telephone (617) 771-3841 or e-mail brianharty98@gmail.com, or Jim Bogard, Treasurer and Director, telephone (802) 464-2986 or e-mail jimrbogard@aol.com, should you have questions. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


for Brian Harty, President
Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers