

Killington Town Mountain Partnership Committee Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2011
SP Land Offices
10 a.m.

Attending the Meeting: Kathy Judge, Ken Lee, Mary T. Holland, Chris Bianchi, Steve Selbo, Kathleen Ramsay, Jeanne Karlhuber, and Bill Vines.

Chris Bianchi updated the group on the Select Board's consideration of the golf debt restructuring and the Town/Mountain Committee discussed the possibility of using local option tax revenues to contribute to the golf debt restructuring. Comments included:

- Since the local option tax is split with the state, by using the local option tax, we're only getting a 65¢ return on our each dollar collected.
- Would a mixed approach (local option tax/property tax) address the concerns of vociferous opponents of the local option tax?
- Would marketing golf in Killington be a better investment in the long run than spending local option tax revenue for the golf course debt?
- Given the 2008 Town Meeting vote specifying use of the local option tax funds for Economic Development & Tourism, there are ethical considerations in diverting that revenue for golf debt, absent another Town Meeting vote.
- We have worked very hard to restore our relationship with the Resort; would diverting local option tax dollars to offset impact of the refinancing on the property tax jeopardize that work?

Chris also updated the group on the selection of an engineer for the water system feasibility study. The \$19,500 study is a good planning tool which will investigate the need for drinking water, fire hydrants and building sprinklers, the availability of groundwater from wells along the Killington Road, and potential water system government models (if development of a water system is indicated). Steve Selbo said that he simply needs to know if the Town wants to be included in water system planning for the Village so that he can go forward with the planning process accordingly.

Chris also mentioned the Town's work with the Resort on the upcoming Dew Tour.

Mary T. Holland updated the Committee on the status of the reappraisal: The Listers continue to work toward the April 1 deadline, and are almost done with the physical inspection phase of the re-appraisal and are now focused on data entry.

Steve Selbo reported that he is working toward the Act 250 submittal. Steve also updated the group of the status of appeals pending before the courts.

Jeanne Karlhuber reported on the work of the Economic Development and Tourism Department, including:

- 2011 budget work and strategic planning;
- Working with the Chamber to integrate and fine-tune the websites;
- Marketing Grant Program (where 2 or more businesses join with the EDT in a collaborative marketing effort);
- Golf Marketing – Seth Webb is working with Dave Pfannenstein of Killington Resort Golf Course and Dave Soucy of Green Mountain National Golf Course to develop marketing promotions of golf in Killington;

Jeanne reviewed several of EDT events from the summer and the fall, including the Hay Festival and the Soap Box Rally, which provided great publicity for the Town.

Upcoming for this year, Jeanne noted that there is an expanded calendar of events including the more “Cooler in the Mountains” Concerts and the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Killington. Jeanne also noted the EDT’s work with the Resort on the public transportation component of the Dew Tour and discussions about the possibility of bringing Circus Smirkus to town in August. The goal, Jeanne said, is to sponsor events rather than run events.

With regard to public transportation in general, Jeanne said that this is an issue that all parties need to work on in a proactive way, rather than scramble each year to have a limited service shuttle available.

Jeanne also noted that the Scenic Preservation Council will hold a public hearing on the designation of Route 4 as a scenic byway, making towns along the corridor eligible for inclusion in scenic byways marketing campaigns and eligible for grant funding.

Jeanne mentioned the EDT’s interest in playing a supporting role in the redevelopment of Bill’s Country Store as a potential visitor’s center, similar to the Waterbury Visitor’s Center which is leased and operated by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters.

Jeanne said that the EDT is optimistic about two grant applications it submitted: one for continuation of the Killington Road walkway and the other for a feasibility study of creating a gateway along the Route 4 & Route 100 corridor.

Bill Vines reported that the Chamber is working on a number of projects, including the web site, with the Economic Development & Tourism Department.

Bill also reported that business was good over the Christmas period.

Businesses are enthusiastic about the Dew Tour but uncertain about the business impact on the weekend of the event. At the very minimum, the exposure Killington will receive

on television during the Dew Tour should be good marketing for both the resort and the town. It should help drive visitors to Killington later in the season for skiing and riding.

Ken Lee reported that a small committee is working on revisions to the Zoning Bylaws. The Planning Commission will consider the Committee's recommendations at its next meeting.

The next meeting of the Town/Mountain Partnership Committee will be April 4 at 10 a.m. at the SP Land Offices.