

Revival News & Notes



The Newsletter of Revitalizing Waterbury, Inc.

Winter 2006

No. 9

Waterbury Achieves Downtown Designation Status

by Jeanne Kirby

Waterbury's application for Downtown Designation was unanimously approved by the State of Vermont's Downtown Development Board on Monday, November 27, making it the 22nd Designated Downtown in Vermont. The Designation makes towns eligible for a variety of state funds and financial incentives.

"Waterbury has been working hard over the past seven years on achieving designation of their downtown, and anyone who has visited the community lately can see how committed they are to revitalization," said Kevin Dorn, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and Chairman of the Downtown Development Board.

Dorn complimented the application, which was prepared by the Waterbury Downtown Partnership (WDP) – a subcommittee of Revitalizing Waterbury – and submitted by the Waterbury Village Trustees.

As a Designated Downtown, Waterbury is eligible to compete for \$1.5 million in tax credits for building rehabilitation and safety improvements that help support continued commercial and residential activity, and other benefits that include loans and grants from various state agencies. "Getting Downtown Designation is a testament to the strong partnerships that exist between Waterbury organizations, town officials, business and property owners, and citizen volunteers who care deeply about and are invested in the revitalization of our downtown" said Tom Stevens, Chair of WDP.

Sub-committees of the Waterbury Downtown Partnership focus on four key areas of downtown revitalization (Organization, Economic Restructuring, Marketing and Promotion and Design) each have a monthly meeting to develop plans and organize projects.

The Waterbury Downtown Partnership thanks those who participated in the community forums, the volunteers serving on committees, community partners, and individuals who have offered to help with 'hands-on' aspects of future projects.

To find out more about the benefits of Downtown Designation and/or information about tax credits for property and business owners within the designated downtown district can contact Tom Stevens (WDP Chair) at 244-4164 or go to www.historicvermont.org/programs/designated.html. If you are interested in learning more about WDP and how you can be involved, contact Jeanne Kirby at 244-4178.

Restoration Celebration

Community spirit shined on Saturday, October 14, as folks gathered in Rusty Parker Memorial Park to see and celebrate Waterbury's newly restored train station.

The line to tour the building interior never ceased and people were wowed by the transformed interior, the depictions of historic Waterbury in the community room, and the GMCR visitor center, where high-tech sounds and images captured the Green Mountain Coffee Roasters story from "tree to cup."

The fun-filled afternoon featured live, local music, horse and wagon rides, food from the Rotary, and fireworks thrown high above the station at dusk.

The community celebration was preceded by a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, October 13, where speakers praised the collaborative effort on the project and the overwhelming support from community members.



Onlookers take in the train station in all its glory along with live, local music at RW's Community Celebration.

Waterbury Community Fair Moves

by Gwynne Berry

Revitalizing Waterbury is happy to announce the 6th Annual Waterbury Community Fair (WCF) will take place Sunday, March 4 from 12-3pm. WCF is a public event that features booths from over 50 municipal and non-profit organizations, free food and fun, family activities. Due to the renovations at Thatcher Brook Primary School this year, the Fair will be held at Crossett Brook Middle School. The theme for this year's fair is "Celebrating Community and Neighbors." What better way to express that than to hold the event at Crossett Brook Middle School.

This unique, interactive fair offers an opportunity to meet the many groups that are re-energizing Waterbury. There will be "A Taste of Waterbury" featuring free food provided by local food businesses, live music, a local art show, and plenty of children's activities to help chase away the winter doldrums. So come join us for an afternoon of neighborly fun.

If you are a local non-profit, artist, or food provider and would like more information about getting involved with the Fair, please contact Gwynne Berry at 244-7377 or waterbury2007@yahoo.com.

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Kathy O'Dell Memorial

Kathy O'Dell was a driving force behind Revitalizing Waterbury (RW). Kathy, who passed away in February 2005, is remembered for her contributions to RW as the organization's first president and as a founding board member.

RW intends to honor Kathy with a sculpture of antique travel pieces to be placed on the platform outside the train station. We anticipate the sculpture will be complete in the spring.

We hope you will join us as we raise money for this memorial to honor Kathy's work and legacy for Waterbury. To make a donation or for more information, contact info@RevitalizingWaterbury.com

RW Recognizes David and Margaret Luce for Community Service

This year's recipients of the Kathy O'Dell Community Service Award are David and Margaret Luce of Waterbury Center. While the couple is near and dear to RW (David most recently served as clerk of the works for the station restoration and Margaret as a member of the station's Grand Opening Committee), the Luce's service efforts are far reaching, so much so that no one can keep track of all of their contributions. Some of their service includes: Waterbury Library Commissioner (Margaret), Waterbury Ambulance Driver (David), Waterbury Historical Society and Habitat for Humanity (David and Margaret). From daycare and health care to affordable housing, these two have worked together and as individuals, always giving to their community and beyond.



"Although this community is full of many kind and giving individuals David and Margaret have to be some of the nicest folks I've met," said Laura Parette, President of RW. "Their generosity and community spirit sets an example for all of us."

The Kathy O'Dell Community Service Award is given annually by RW in recognition of a business or individuals who give back to their community. Kathy O'Dell was a founding member of RW, who served as the organization's first president in 1991; she passed away in February of 2005.

RW Board Retreat

RW board members gathered for a full-day retreat on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Conference Center on Demeritt Place in Waterbury. Held on the heels of the much-anticipated station grand opening, the retreat focused largely on the "what's next" question that is on the minds of community members and board members alike.

The board discussed the importance of tending to all the projects RW is already part of, especially new responsibilities connected to the Waterbury Downtown Partnership. It was also felt that the organization might be able to serve the community more broadly by partnering with existing organizations.

The docket included other typical items, such as mission evaluation, leadership planning, and membership recruitment. The board hopes to find a way to involve more community members in specific, hands-on projects that do not require any long-term commitment to the organization. (If you can help our volunteer organization for a day, be it planting flowers in the village, setting up for the Waterbury Community Fair, etc., please send an e-mail to info@RevitalizingWaterbury.org.)

**RW meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 5:30pm at the Chittenden Bank.
Meeting dates for 2007: January 9, February 13 and March 13**

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Happy New Year to all our supporters!

*Save the date! Waterbury Community Fair
Sunday, March 4th
at Crossett Brook Middle School.*

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