

Revival News & Notes



The Newsletter of Revitalizing Waterbury, Inc.

May 2008

No. 14

RW and WDP Are One

Like most small non-profit organizations, Revitalizing Waterbury (RW) is constantly evolving. At our February board meeting a proposal was unanimously passed for RW to dissolve one of our committees known as the Waterbury Downtown Partnership (WDP), but to apply WDP's structure to RW. This move means RW has four main committees – Organization, Economic Restructuring, Design, and Marketing and Promotion. This move aligns RW with twenty-two counterpart downtown organizations across the state and is meant to eliminate confusion that arose as a result of forming a separate committee (WDP) to develop and implement a comprehensive downtown revitalization strategy.

Spring for Good Neighbors



RW would like to thank all our members and our Waterbury/Duxbury neighbors for making a point of shopping and dining on April 5th at local businesses and restaurants that participated in

and generously supported our Spring for Good Neighbors fundraiser. We project that this event will raise approximately \$5,000, half of which will benefit the Waterbury Good Neighbor Fund. Timing-wise with the rise of food, fuel and other everyday living expenses, RW is pleased that our partner, the Waterbury Good Neighbor Fund, will receive an infusion of funds that will be dispersed to our neighbors who need assistance.

...and the Survey Says

Were you one of the 500 people who went online and filled out the Waterbury Shopping Survey? If you were, the Economic Restructuring Committee of RW says thank you! As a result of the significant number of survey responses, the committee is carefully analyzing the large amount of data. In upcoming weeks, the ER Committee will share general highlights from the survey with the public and prepare a more detailed report for downtown businesses. Leanne Tingay of the Vermont Downtown Program was impressed by the high response rate to the survey and by the preliminary data analysis compiled by James Jennings of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. Tingay has asked the group to consider making a presentation at the State Downtown Conference in October.



On the Horizon: RW's 2008 Membership Drive

There's tremendous support in our community for the work RW does to enhance and preserve Waterbury's commercial downtown. Last year our membership grew from 67 members to 163! Individual and business memberships are a critical source of funds for RW's operating budget and diverse projects. Our revitalization efforts are a mixture of dreaming big, attention to the "big picture," partnering for a bigger bang, and lots, lots of small, yet important steps forward. We hope you will renew your membership or become a member in 2008. Keep your eye out for our membership mailing in late May.

Adding Art to Downtown

RW's Design Committee is expanding its downtown beautification efforts by launching a multi-year banner program that taps into and shows off Waterbury's creative side. This year's goal is to have a dozen banners with artistic images of Waterbury's culture, history, architecture or scenery lining portions of Stowe and Main streets. A call to artists of all ages has gone out through *Exit 10*, the *Waterbury Record* and school bulletins. If you are interested in submitting artwork, or to obtain guidelines, please contact MK Monley at 244-5043 or mkmonley@comcast.net. Artwork is due no later than June 14.

Operation Village Beautification

If you've got a green thumb or just like to get dirt under your fingernails, join the Design Committee on **Thursday, May 29**, as they prepare plantings for the window boxes and barrels that beautify downtown. If you're interested in joining the crew, contact Jack Carter at 244-5321 or EmpStowSt@aol.com or just show up: 4 p.m., Stowe Street Emporium. Please bring your garden gloves and trowel.

RW thanks the following businesses
for choosing to locate or relocate in downtown Waterbury:

Salon on Main	One Studio Dance & Yoga
JC's Rec Center for Kids	Third Planet Windpower
Ocha Restaurant	Weston & Sampson Engineers
Five Hills Bikes	Waterbury Wireless
Garfield's Salon	New England Landmark Realty

2008 Kathy O'Dell Award

Do you have a recommendation for a worthy recipient of our Kathy O'Dell Community Service Award? This annual award, named after RW's first president who passed away in 2005, aims to recognize a Waterbury business that has made a significant contribution to the betterment of our downtown and community. Past recipients of the Kathy O'Dell Community Service Award include: Green Mountain Coffee Roasters ('03), WDEV ('04), Vincent's Drug and Variety ('05), Margaret and David Luce ('06) and Steve VanEsen and Ed Steele of Pilgrim Partnership ('07).

If you have a suggestion of an ideal candidate please email us by July 1 at revitalizingwaterbury@gmail.com with the name of the business along with a short explanation/description of their positive impact on Waterbury.

Cool Mapping Project For Geeks

In conjunction with a Vermont Community Development Program Planning Grant received by the Village and Town of Waterbury, RW has been offered an extraordinary opportunity to participate in a pilot project created in coordination with Google Earth. The consultant firm Green Mountain GeoGraphics will train and support a team of computer literate volunteers to build a 3-dimensional interactive computer model of the downtown for planning economic development and affordable housing projects. We are **needing volunteers** to participate in this exciting project-please call Sue Minter at 244-6229 or e-mail at sue@sueminter.com, by May 30th.

RW Annual Meeting

Thanks to all RW members who attended our March annual meeting and potluck at the home of David and Margaret Luce. What an enjoyable evening it was! Business got taken care of, too, including electing officers. RW welcomes back the following seasoned team for another exciting year: Jeanne Kirby, President; Elizabeth MacGowan, Vice-President; Dawn Lee Minter, Treasurer; and MK Monley, Secretary.

All RW meetings are open to the public.

Please feel free to drop in and check things out.

Revitalizing Waterbury Board

Monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Thatcher Brook Primary School, Conference Room.

RW DESIGN COMMITTEE

Monthly meeting: 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Waterbury Municipal Building.

RW MARKETING AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Monthly meeting: 2nd Friday, 7:45 a.m., Waterbury Area Senior Center.

RW ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

Monthly meeting: TBD, contact Mary Miller, 244-8479 or mpmiller2@hughes.net.

More Reasons to be Proud of Waterbury:

Hen of the Wood Executive Chef and owner Eric Warnstedt has been named by *Food & Wine Magazine* 10 Best New Chefs! The issue is due out in July 2008.

In the March 2008 issue of *Bike Magazine* **Waterbury's mountain biking trails** were described in an article that highlighted 'best trails in each of the 50 states.' This summer (July 12 & 13) the Vermont Mountain Bike Association will hold its first mountain bike festival in downtown Waterbury.

RW Newsletter Goes Green

Would you prefer to receive *Revival News & Notes* in your email inbox rather than your roadside mailbox? Send RW your email address with "RW newsletter-be green" in the subject line to revitalizingwaterbury@gmail.com and we'll make sure that happens for future issues.

Looking for a way to get involved,
but no long-term commitment?
Read this newsletter -
RW may have what you're looking for!

WANTED:

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