

Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Town Hall Meeting & Zoom

10/3/2022

Attendance: Vange Morse, Michael Houge, Bridget Ferrin, Deb Bixby,

1. Michael Houge is here to tell us about the train station renovations. They put it out to bid and want 3 bids, they have raised 412, 000. About \$98K is for signage and outreach. They have concluded that the train station should be a hub for all RA (Recreational Activities) in Danville. They hope to have the renovations complete by next October.

They are going to put the platform back on and the canopy back on plus the grassy area across the street. Not sure what to do with the freight side of the operations. There is a feasibility study to see what would be the best use of that side.

Believes that we need to put it to use right away which means we need parking and toilets. So they want to map all of the RA of Danville as well as the Historical Scenic Assets (HAS)'s

Hoping to have a map: Fishing access, B and B's, etc. create the first booklet: Camping sites and regulations, XC ski, hiking and biking routes. May be a separate summer and a winter guide.

Then another HAS map

Comfort station, Bathroom, water and amenities, rotating exhibits from the historical society and the town municipality.

Wants us to take on the town forest as far as mapping access and amenities. Trail map, and has money for potential kiosk. From the Wayfinding committee.

Waiting for VTrans to come back and tell them what the state signage. They want to create a standard for signage, etc.

Bridget wants to know “Why? Do we want to market our assets?”

Mike feels like we don’t have a choice because the state is marketing the LVRT and the state has realized that VT is a place for recreation and is marketing our state as a recreational place.

Bridget feels like we are selling out our community assets and creating more parking lots and housing and upping all of our property values so people can’t live here. She wants to preserve the history and our assets and not to make money off of it.

Jake: the problem is that all small businesses here in Danville are sell Danville already so there’s no way that we will be able keep people away.

Bridget : I don’t want to keep people out for the small businesses, but she doesn’t want to sell out our public natural resources the same way as businesses.

Mike: Feels the problem is that we have a dying population, so its important that we have a place that young people want to come to. The hub is a good idea because we want to get out ahead of people coming and buying up the property. That way we can keep the flavor of the town to attract the kind of people that we want in Danville. We need to find the balance between the recreational economy and the business economy.

There will be state park camping sites on the LVRT.

We agree that its important to map the town resources and advertise them enough that the townsfolk know that these recreational assets exist.

The conservation commission will be happy to work with Mike and will continue to develop the trail maps for the future kiosks.

Next meeting Sunday November 7th.