

Municipal Corner – November

Halloween Storm: Thank you to all volunteers and employees that responded to the flooding and wind event that occurred the evening of October 31st into November 1st. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened to coordinate a response. All agencies worked well together under challenging circumstances. I want to thank our Public Safety, Public Works, Highway, Wastewater, Parks and Stowe Electric crewmembers for their tireless work and dedication. I would also like to extend our appreciation to Dale E. Percy and Walker Construction for going above and beyond to restore accessibility. As of this writing the section of the Rec Path is washed out near Chase Park. Also, another section of the Rec Path – under the Luce Hill Bridge is closed due to undermining and the railing being washed away- -All roads are passable except for a section of Percy Hill, but more work remains to be done over the coming weeks to fully restore our infrastructure. On top of other major projects and emergency events, Mother Nature appears to be demanding even more.

Due to the circumstances this weekend, the Vermont 10 Miler and the Nordic Invitational were cancelled. The EOC staff and I understand the importance of these events to the business community and the participants. Although I received feedback from public works and emergency management officials, if there is any fault to be had with cancelling these events and any associated communication, it rests with me alone. Our primary focus was on public safety, restoring access, and putting out traffic warning devices to notify motorists of hazards. The EOC and I will do an after-action review as we do after every major event to evaluate how we can improve our overall response. This will include meeting with representatives of the business community, to discuss how we can communicate information in a timely manner and effective manner.

Stowe Vibrancy: This fall marks Stowe Vibrancy's 10th Anniversary. Their mission is "to increase the vibrancy of the Town of Stowe through the enhancement of social, recreational, cultural, economic, and physical characteristics of the village." Many people have attended the events in the village center they host each year, such as the British Invasion Street Dance, An Old Fashioned Fourth of July, and Art on Park. However, they have also been an advocate for physical infrastructure improvements which help to better serve the public and help attract private sector investment. All of Stowe is important, but the historic village center is our community center. It is where we gather to practice our democratic rights by attending municipal government meetings, it is an historic district with the iconic Stowe Community Church, it is the face of Stowe when people come to visit. When I first came to Stowe, I ran into a friend from high school with his family and he asked me what there is to do in Stowe. I paused and thought about it for awhile and I told them they could ride on the Stowe Rec Path or go for a hike. Now, due to the energy and volunteerism it seems like there is an event happening all the time, not just in the village center, but throughout Stowe. Thank you to Stowe Vibrancy along with the volunteers and sponsors who have added to the vitality of Stowe.

New Crosswalk: The Selectboard approved the installation of a new crosswalk across Depot Street at its intersection with Thomas Lane. There are a number of small children that cross there regularly, so please give them the right-of-way and drive with caution.

E-bikes: The Town Attorney has provided an opinion that Class 1 pedal assisted e-bikes that have a maximum speed of 20 mph are considered bicycles under state law and therefore are permitted on the Stowe Recreation Path. This does not extend to Class 2 e-bikes that are throttle assisted or Class 3 e-

bikes that have a maximum speed of 28 mph and other motorized vehicles. Motorized wheel-chairs or other devices operated by mobility-impaired individuals are permitted.