



## MILFORD IMPROVEMENT TEAM

2014 Annual Report - Celebrating our 22<sup>nd</sup> year, The Milford Improvement Team had a busy year of coordinating events, projects for the town, and promoting economic development throughout Milford. Our goals:

- Promote Milford as a vibrant cultural, retail and entertainment destination in the region;
- Encourage a variety of local and independent businesses and activities that will both serve and employ residents;
- Preserve, where feasible, Milford's historic buildings and encourage sympathetic new development;
- Make Milford's gateway streetscapes attractive and engaging;
- Continue to maintain downtown Milford as the attractive, pedestrian-oriented center of our community;
- Foster cooperation among residents, business owners and property owners.

### **The Milford Improvement Team held six events throughout the year in 2014.**

"Make it Milford, Vacant Spaces Tour" was held in March. MIT partnered with the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce and local realtors and building owners, to showcase our available commercial spaces including storefronts, office and industrial space. The purpose of this event was to attract new business to Milford. The day's schedule included a Light Breakfast and Panel Discussion with Milford and Amherst Community Development Directors, Fire Department and Building Officials, and Commercial Lenders about Opening or Re-locating a business to Milford or Amherst; A Self-guided Tour of Available Commercial Properties in Milford and Amherst, and Tour lunch specials at area restaurants listed in the tour program.



MIT also coordinated the New **Milford Pride Town-wide Clean-up Day**, which was held in late May. Partnering with the Milford Masonic Lodge, the Milford DPW, and local businesses and community groups, scores of residents and town officials came out in full force to pick up tons of trash that had accumulated along the roads and Souhegan River in Milford. Over 150 participants were treated to a BBQ lunch afterwards.



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Milford took place May 30<sup>th</sup>**. The purpose of the Taste is to showcase Milford eateries, as well as the Milford Oval businesses that host them.

In 2014, there were 25 Milford eateries that participated, and 20 downtown businesses that hosted the event in their businesses. 500 attendees and 30+ volunteers thoroughly enjoyed their evening!

### **Restoration & Rededication of Milford's World War II Memorial Park.**

Partnering with the Milford Garden Club, Milford Historical Society, Harley-Sanford VFW, and the Town of Milford, MIT applied for and received grants from The Kaley Foundation and the Arthur L. Keyes Memorial Trust, as well as private donors. Dedicated in September 1948, the WW II Memorial Park was established to honor those soldiers from Milford who never made it home. In 2014, MIT and the groups it partnered with restored and re-dedicated the park on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.



**The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Milford Pumpkin Festival** was held October 10 through 12<sup>th</sup>. MIT continues to organize this event on behalf of the Town of Milford, so that we may continue to promote the historic, natural, social, and economic vitality of the town. There were over 35,000 attendees over the 3 day event. Thousands of volunteer hours go into putting on this event, with people working months in advance. Many Milford nonprofits and community based groups participated with fundraising or awareness activities that raised substantial monies that will be reinvested back into the Milford Community.



**The Milford Annual Holiday Craft Fairs and Town Tree Lighting** were again coordinated by MIT the first weekend in December!



In 2014, The Milford Pumpkin Festival was voted **Best Community Event** by **Hippo** Readers for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year, and was also voted the **Best Local Event** at the Souhegan Valley "Best of" Awards!



**MIT coordinated projects in 2014 also included:**

**Milford QR Code Tour** is launched at [www.qrtoursmilfordnh.org](http://www.qrtoursmilfordnh.org). This tour focuses on the historical places in Milford. There are 14 stops on the tour, with plans to expand the tour in the future to historical people, a cemetery tour and more!



**On-going MIT projects that benefited Milford in 2014:**

MIT maintains the Oval Streetscape – flowers on bandstand, Oval flowerbeds, banners, seasonal decorations

MIT serves as resource/advisor/partner to many other groups on fundraising, projects, promoting of events

MIT provides the flowers for the Stone Bridge for the Milford Garden Club

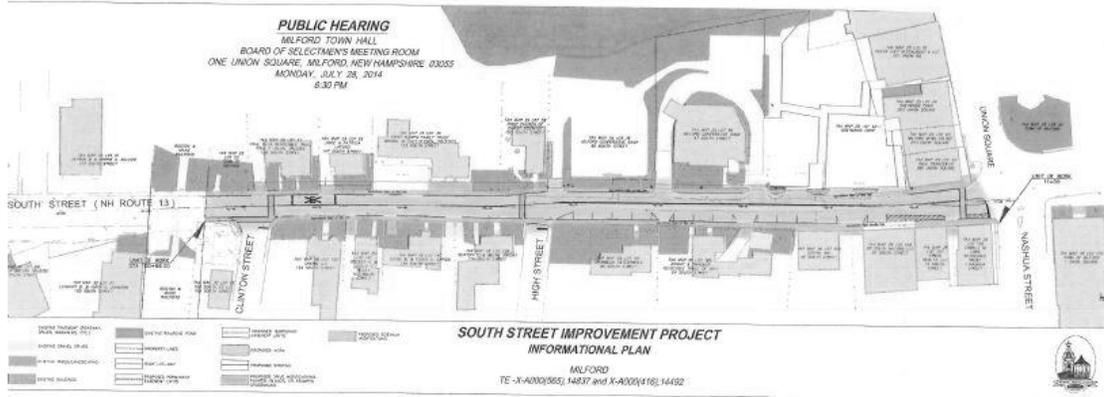
MIT Executive Director serves on Milford Economic Development Advisory Counsel, Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, NRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC), and NH Vibrant Communities Network

In 2014, MIT also participated in the UNH-Extension's Business Retention and Expansion Project to survey businesses in the Souhegan Valley Region.

Begun by MIT, the Milford Winter Indoor Farmers Market now runs itself, but MIT provided the marketing for the group, and MIT continually promotes Milford businesses and eateries!



**Looking ahead to 2015, the Milford Improvement Team will finally see the long-awaited construction of the South Street Improvements! Spearheaded by MIT, these improvements have been a decade in the making!**



Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Woolfson, President, MIT Board of Directors  
Wendy Hunt , MIT Executive Director

2014 Board Members: Vice President: Ed Killam, Treasurer: Kent Chappell: Executive Committee: Heather Leach, Mark Constable; Board: Tim Barr, Kathy Bauer, Trent Blalock, Michael Brisbois, Kate Chamberlin, , Rick Ganis, Karen Keating, Robert Krey, Janet Spalding, David Sturm, and Chuck Worcester.

**DO-IT/MIT is a not for profit 501(c)6 organization working for and on behalf of the Town of Milford. All Board members are Volunteers.**