



Working to promote, revitalize, and enhance the historic, natural, social and economic vitality of Milford since 1992.

2015 Annual Report

Celebrating our 23rd year, The Milford Improvement Team had a busy year of coordinating events, projects for the town, and promoting economic development throughout Milford.

A 501(c)6 non-profit, MIT coordinates community events and projects on behalf of the Town of Milford, for the benefit of its businesses and residents. MIT sponsored events/projects to bring an increased awareness of the greater Milford region as a travel/tourism destination, as well as promoting the potential for investment and commercial activity in Milford. It is run by its executive director and an all-volunteer board of directors.

We strive to enhance the quality of life in Milford on behalf of the town, its businesses and residents. In 2015, MIT-coordinated events attracted over 37,000 attendees to the Town of Milford. MIT also played a lead role in implementing many projects for the benefit of the town and the quality of life in the Milford community.

2015 MIT-coordinated Events:



*** Make It Milford Bingo Game**- Winter can be a very slow time for our local businesses. In an effort to get people out of their houses and get them shopping, dining, and going out for services, MIT organized a "Make It Milford March Madness Bingo" game. Local businesses graciously donated bingo prizes.

*** 2nd Annual Commercial Spaces Tour**- On March 28, the Milford Improvement Team coordinated Milford's 2nd Annual Vacant Spaces Tour to showcase available commercial spaces in our area for sale or lease. The tour was geared towards anyone thinking about starting up a business, expanding or relocating their existing business to the Milford area.



*** 2nd Annual Milford Pride Town-wide Clean-Up Day**- For the 2nd year, MIT brought together the community to make Milford beautiful once again by coordinating the annual Town-wide Clean-up Day. Starting at the Keyes Pavilion with coffee and donuts, participants fanned out to their assigned areas! After they picked up several hundred bags of trash, participants enjoyed a fantastic BBQ courtesy of the Masons.



*** 6th Annual Taste of Milford**-Each Spring, MIT coordinates this event to showcase Milford eateries, and the Milford Oval area businesses that host them. The "Taste" event puts Milford on the map as a shopping and dining destination, and is a vital traffic building tool for our area businesses. In 2015, 700+ attendees "tasted" some of the best entrees, desserts, appetizers, etc. from 30+ participating culinary enthusiasts--Milford area restaurants, shops, caterers, MHS's Culinary Program, and Home Food businesses! 21 businesses hosted the event, along with 50+ volunteers.



*** 1st Annual Milford Arts Festival: "Arts on the Oval"**- Following the 6th Annual Taste of Milford, this event highlighted Milford's artistic beauty by showcasing Fine Art from area artists, Crafts, Live Music and Performances, Kids Activities, a Student Art Show, and the Unique Dining and Shopping Experience of the Milford Oval.



***26th Annual Milford Pumpkin Festival-** Since 2000, MIT has coordinated all aspects of this event on behalf of the town and residents. With 35,000+ attendees, the Milford Pumpkin Festival provides great visibility for the Town of Milford as a place to live, work, shop, recreate, eat and do business. 1000s of volunteer hours go into putting on this event, with people working months in advance. Over 40 Milford area non-profits, school clubs and teams, community based groups and others, participated with fundraising or awareness activities that raised substantial monies – funds that were reinvested directly back into the Milford Community in the form of team and band uniforms, scholarships, service trips, educational programs, community programs and much more.



*** Holiday Craft Fairs Tour and Events*-** Each December, MIT partners with Milford non-profits, churches, and community groups, to host this holiday event. MIT handles all the publicity, fliers, maps and brochures, as hundreds of attendees descend on Milford to enjoy this event. MIT also promotes the Town of Milford itself as a unique dining and shopping destination. The Milford Lion's Club also had Santa on the Oval Sunday, December 6th, with hot cider and cookies!

2015 MIT-coordinated Projects that benefitted the town and its residents:

Oval Area Parking Study 5 week long Website Development Course for Milford businesses/residents* Managed the town pool snack bar for the residents all summer* Fox25 Boston's Zip Trip to the Milford Oval* Wrote grants to Milford businesses to sponsor new Seasonal Banners in and around the Oval – our gratitude to Edward Jones, Chappell Tractor and Hometown Insurance* Flowers for the Oval and Stone Bridge* Fall decorations* Winter decorations* Town Hall holiday wreath* Purchase of specialty lids for the town's recycling program* Save the Swing Bridge Committee* South Street Improvements Project* Oval Area Improvement Project*

Year-round MIT Projects that benefit Milford:

*MIT's self-guided QR Code Tour of Milford's Historical Places and QR Code website;
* Promoting Milford as a vibrant cultural, retail and entertainment destination in the region;
*MIT's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)- originating from its 2010 HUD grant, MIT continues loan funds to Milford businesses to invest and make improvements to their properties that will improve both the business and the overall aesthetic quality of Milford, as well as promote economic development in our town;
*Continuing to maintain downtown Milford as the attractive, pedestrian-oriented center of our community;
*Fostering cooperation among residents, business and property owners;
*Serving as a resource/support/partner/ adviser to many Milford area non-profits, community groups, schools, scout troops, churches, teams etc. with their own fundraising endeavors and projects that serve to better the community as a whole;
*MIT's Executive Director serves as a member of the town's Economic Development Advisory Committee, is an active board member of the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, is a member of the UNH Business Expansion and Retention Study Project, and a member of the NH Vibrant Communities Network.

MIT Awards and Honors in 2015:

The Milford Pumpkin Festival was voted "Best Local" Event in the Souhegan Valley; *MIT's Executive Director was voted "Business Leader of the year in the Souhegan Valley in 2015."

Respectfully Submitted,

2015 MIT Board Members: President: Alan Woolfson, Vice President: Ed Killam, Treasurer: Kent Chappell; Executive Committee: Heather Leach, Mark Constable; Board: Tim Barr, Kathy Bauer, Trent Blalock, Michael Brisebois, Kate Chamberlin Casey, Karen Keating, Robert Krey, Janet Spalding, David Sturm, Chuck Worcester; Wendy Hunt , MIT Executive Director.