

Minutes: Machias Revitalization Committee

For: April 8, 2016

Old Business discussed:

1. Grants-- Greenspace, Canopy

Sandi Malagara of the "Green Space Committee" briefly went over the subcommittee's meeting on March 28. The group was looking for specifics on previous work/grant applications.

Angela said some plantings were done but did not survive due to weather/planting conditions etc. and there were contractor issues.

The presentation for the Riverwalk (a PowerPoint from the Machias Riverfront Master Plan, 2008) was discussed. The group agreed it was very helpful to get an idea of how various plantings/trees would look. Native plants to be used as much as possible in available spaces.

Tree types were discussed and concerns brought up that could present issues:

- Leaf types: falling on to sidewalks, (potential for walking/slipping hazard?)
 - Washing into storm drains, clogging the system
- Ornamental-types: flowers, berries
 - Attracting birds and the accompanying debris
- Barrels/container planting
 - Bulbs and others that go dormant that could be replanted
 - Concern about out of season storage

New grant will be looked into.

Areas of town discussed:

Burnham Tavern: plantings taken care of by their group.

Dunkin Donuts front curb space

Area across the street, parking area, trailhead: Shrubs to add green

2. RH Foster: Machias project on hold while Ellsworth store gets completed.

Buildings will stay for now, and the possibility of "pop-up" stores discussed. Some interest from potentials: coffee shop, seasonal short-term business ventures.

3. Sidewalks: Waiting on Maine DOT: No plan at the moment, discussed the mild winter and the surplus being used to concentrate on roads.

Other issues:

Court Street discussed. Narrow and very dangerous for pedestrians with no shoulders

Speeding traffic downtown

Not yielding to pedestrians

Solar lights at crossings (cost- relatively inexpensive)

At University (College Hill)

Near Dunkin Donuts

4. Committee Reports: a. Riverwalk-- Looking for funding

Westside trails:

Incredible Edibles Garden: Business sponsors? (Sunrise Opportunities maintaining gardens)

Cleaning and clearing trails

Signage: Color scheme--Colonial Colors

Bad Little Falls Garden: Bee Hive Collective?

Walking History Story Book

5. Banners and Decorations

6. Curb cut study: Sidewalks moving around the back of buildings when Foster's does their project

Notice of Machias Community Pride Day: the weekend of May 14-15th from 9am to 1pm both days

Clean up trash pick up

Sign up for appliance/ large item pickup to transfer station

Encouraging businesses to do clean-up of their properties/yard work, windows, store fronts

By Us donating 2 trucks and trailer for the pick up

Transfer Station free to Machias residents

Angela brought up concerns with trash pick-up around town. Care must be taken, as there is the potential for hazardous materials (sharps, etc). Training for safe handling offered by Angela.

Next meeting 7am Friday, May 13, at Bluebird Restaurant

Respectfully,

Victoria Boone