

Machias Revitalization Committee
Friday, May 11, 2018 7:00
Bluebird Restaurant

Present: Nicholas Boutin, Sandi Bryant, Charlene Cates, Angela Fochesato, Kehben Grier, Katherine Holmes, Bill Kitchen, Sandi Malagara, Gail Peters, Joshua Rolfe and Jim Whalen.

Public Comments: No public comments were made.

Minutes: Angela apologized that the minutes of the last meeting were not available but would be e-mail out as soon as they are complete. She asked Gail Peters to take the minutes for this meeting.

Waterfront Renewal: A survey will be done of the downtown water front area. Tora Johnson of UMM will work with the surveyors to provide plans and a layout for the project. There were marks painted on the ground for the surveyors. A complaint was made by a resident. A concern was raised regarding the Machias River as a federal river including what building may happen in that area. There are federal regulations which must be considered. Angela will ensure this concern is made known.

Westside Trail: This trail will be in the location of the old railroad bed. Several groups have been contacted to help with trail preparation. They included Lindsay McMahon of UMM with a crew who are willing to help. Perin Gray of We Dig It may be able to lend assistance, and the participants in the Arise program.

Cemetery on Court Street at Steel Hill: Jim Jackson a local resident and retired archeologist is guiding a group of volunteers to clear and restore the cemetery. It is understood to be the oldest cemetery in town and the site of the first meeting house. Jim is working with the Machias Rotary, Professor Marcus Librizzi from UMM, and Valdine Atwood of the Machias Historical Society as well as local resident Larry Johnson. There are several other groups that have shown an interest in this project.

Committee Engagement for Main Street Transformation: Anne Ball was a guest speaker at the last meeting. She is with the Main Street Transformation organization which is active in Maine and nationwide. Concerns were raised about insufficient notice to town residents about her attendance at the April revitalization meeting. Angela reminded us that the first stage of this program is a focus group which would envision the future of the downtown area.

History Tour: The script and the first recording have been completed. The second recording is underway as are the QR code and map.

Banners & Decorations: Angela understands that the head of this project, Dan Gardiner of UMM, is working with the Portland School of Art to complete this project. She will confirm this information with Dan. Painting projects on Main Street are currently on

hold. A banner has been erected by Sandi Bryant on the side of Woodwind Gallery. Everyone congratulated Sandi on the appearance of the banner.

Green Space Committee: Sandi Malagara reported that additional trees will be planted around town to be completed by June 1st under the Canopy Grant. Sandi assured those attending that the minutes of the Green Space Committee will be sent out.

Machias Valley Airport: The new airport building is complete. The old building will be moved to align with the new one. The town has accepted a runway bid. The work should be done by August. The road into the airport will be paved as well. The project has come in at \$500,000 under the original estimated budget. Currently, Emera and MDOT are working on arrangements to bury the electric lines on Route One. Questions were raised about the possibility of Angel Flight using the airport. They are funded by Corporate Flight. Bill Kitchen is the contact person regarding this question. Life Flight is now able to use the airport for transporting hospital patients.

Machias Bad Little Falls Signs: Three signs have been completed and are currently in the town office. Concern was expressed about spray paint defacing the signs. There are coatings which can be used over the metal signs to protect against vandalism. Kehben Grier has offered to research the best product for this purpose. Angela is organizing an event to erect the signs to include the Passamaquoddy nation. All agreed it is imperative to have the signs up as soon as possible. Josh Rolfe will discuss this with Christina Therrien.

Shriners Weekend/ Margaretta Days: These two events will coincide this year on June 16th. The Shriners plan a big parade as part of the weekend. Contact Carlene Holmes if you are interested in entering a float.

There are some exciting events happening this summer in Machias. The weekend events have begun. Tonight, May 11th there is a wine tasting at the French Cellar and art show in the community room of Machias Savings Bank by the Bold Coast Art Collective. The Machias Fire Department will be holding an Emergency Expo at UMM on July 28th. There are many more happenings so stay tuned.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail J. Peters