

**Machias Revitalization Committee Minutes**  
**- November 18, 2016**  
7 a.m. Bluebird Ranch Restaurant

Attendance: Angela Fochesato, Sandi Malagara, Christine Therrien, Joshua Rolfe, Dan Gardner, Sharon Mack, Gail Peters, Robert Berta

Public Comment: Mr. Berta of County Wide Publications wished to pursue when meetings were held. He incorrectly stated that the committee had not met in 120 days. He was corrected and told that the committee had met every month except August (summer break) and October (members' unavailability), that the committee had met twice in July. Mr. Berta also tried to discuss a WCCOG grant that is not part of this committee's work and launched a series of comments about "Joseph Stalin never killed anybody," and claimed to have had a conversation with Angela's mother, who is deceased. When asked to please stop talking, Mr. Berta threatened to publish stories that the committee would not "like."

Christina Therrien reported that MDOT had been notified of a stop sign at the corner of Court and Broadway that had been vandalized, an issue raised by Mr. Berta and not part of this committee's work.

**Old Business:**

The committee unanimously approved a draft Forestry Canopy Grant in the amount of \$8,000, which will now go to the selectmen on Nov. 30 for approval and will be submitted to the state Forestry Dept. by January 18.

Angela reported that the Stephen and Tabitha King grant would be announced in January for the edible gardens and upgrades on the south side of the Machias River near Bad Little Falls Park. Christina explained that the town of Machias would be the fiduciary agent for any grant funds. The grant is a partnership between the town and the committee and that she had approved use of the town seal on the King Foundation grant application.

Sandi Malagara reported that the pop-up shop, Expressions, on Main Street is now completely under her management and is doing well. A series of holiday events will be held there. She said that Expressions, Machias Art and Antiques and Woodwind Gallery would be holding open house events during the Machias Community Christmas on Dec. 10.

A lengthy discussion was held on the status of sidewalk reconstruction. Christina said that \$300,000 had been put back into the state Community Block Grant Fund and that any funding would be extremely competitive. She suggested looking at various types of material, styles of sidewalks, locations for repair/replacement and lighting and create a plan. She favored concrete sections that could be easily replaced if needed for maintenance. All members were urged by Joshua Rolfe to research sidewalks before the committee's next meeting and bring suggestions forward. Part of this discussion raised the issue of rising sea levels and storm surges and how potential flooding would impact any work done and properties in the area where flooding is predicted. The committee agreed that a joint meeting with the Machias Board of Selectmen to hear a presentation by UMM Professor Dr. Tora Johnson and begin a community plan.

Dan Gardner reported that the Banners Committee was suggesting seasonal banners on the "shoulders" of Main Street and banners focused on Machias history for the downtown area. The theme could be "History Lives Here." This would be a companion project with the Machias Bay Chamber of Commerce effort to hold a series of community meetings this winter focused on programs, etc., to highlight Machias as a history destination. Other ideas included painting town characters in period costumes on area buildings and using black cutouts of historical characters as guideposts for the Machias History Walk.

Christina reported that MDOT had provided a report, which will be forwarded to all committee members, regarding four of the eight traffic study sites. These include the entrance from Route 1 to Kennebec Road, Elm Street, the intersection of Main/Water/Colonial Way, and Court Street hill. Relocating or changing some of these roads to one-way was discussed.

Christina reported that repairs to the Airport are going well and that an FAA grant for 2017 will include reconstruction of the access road and a new terminal building.

The Committee agreed to disband the Curb Cut Study group and make it part of the Sidewalk Committee.

Angela reminded members that annual election of officers and committee assignments will take place at the next meeting and anyone seeking an office should notify her.

The next meeting will be held at 7 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at Bluebird Restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Mack, Secretary

FYI: Here are the 2016 Committee Assignments:

MRC Committees

**Banners and Decorations:** Chairman Dan Gardner

Angela Fochesato  
Nancy Mirman  
Christina Therrien  
Amy Walsh  
Katherine Mahon

**River Walk:**

Angela Fochesato  
Amy Walsh  
Rich Bard  
Sandi Malagara

**Curb Cut Study:**

Joshua Rolfe  
Garret Lee  
Christina Therrian  
Vicki Boone

**Green Committee:**

Eric Jones  
Tim Moffett  
Sandi Malagara  
Vicki Boone  
Sharon Mack