

**MACHIAS REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 a.m.

Public comment

Mr. Don Ficker presented expressed his interest in working towards building some type of community center in Machias. He stated he inquired about the old ford garage site owned by Machias Savings Bank but the bank is not interested in using the site for that purpose. He also mentioned the basketball court/tennis court area. He envisions a 100 foot by 150 foot enclosed span with a track area for people to walk, maybe a stage, and a firepit. This would be a place for the community to gather. He wants to see if the community is interested in pursuing this as a project. It was decided the committee would take a month to think about this proposal and they will discuss it in more detail at the next meeting. Mr. Ficker will speak to the Board of Selectmen regarding this proposal at their meeting on March 22. Letter attached to minutes from Mr. Ficker on the proposal.

Bob Berta made a public statement regarding his concern with past minutes of this committee. He was asked to provide a copy of his statement to be attached to these minutes. He refused to provide the copy. The committee felt that he was again making intimidating statements regarding proposed lawsuits and that he was threatening the committee. On a motion by Christina Therrien and a second by Joshua Rolfe the committee decided to move on with the business of the committee agenda.

Old Business

a. Greenspace, Canopy Grant

Gail Peters stated that the subcommittee has not received any word on the grant yet but everything looks good. She reminded everyone to look for the daffodils to bloom soon in the traffic island at the bottom of Court Street.

b. Yoga Fest

Tabled until next meeting

Committee Reports

a. Riverwalk

All items under this category were tabled until Angela is present.

b. Cleaning and Clearing of the Trail

All items under this category were tabled until Angela is present.

Draft Easement Language-Rich Bard

Rich Bard stated that this committee is not planning to take any property by Eminent Domain. The committee will work with the landowners. More discussion needs to occur with the committee about the new floodplain ordinance and maps. The work on the east side of the river progresses slower with the new changes it should not impact the work on the west side.

Curb Cut Study-Christina Therrien

Sidewalks

The committee members shall bring suggestions for new sidewalk materials and designs to the next meeting for review.

Traffic Safety Study

Gail Peters asked if the curb openings downtown was discussed in the recent Traffic and Safety Study? Christina stated that there were eight areas of concern originally discussed for the study. Because of limited time and funding for the project it was decided to address four areas in more detail and review the other four areas at a future date. The curb cuts were not part of the current study. The four areas discussed were the corner of Colonial/Water/ Main Street and the Mobil Station, the second was Steele Hill and a possible sidewalk, the third was the entrance of the Kennebec Road onto Route 1, and finally the various safety concerns with Elm Street. The final report for this study will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on March 22, 2017. The committee may consider changing the recommendation on the Elm Street corner by the Grange due to new information provided by the Beehive Collective. A suggestion has been made to make the corner a two-way stop.

Signage-Bad Little Falls Park

Amy stated that she has submitted a request for Bangor Savings Bank to provide funding towards the new signs for Bad Little Falls Park. The bank would request that a dropdown sign or plaque be put up recognizing the donation. She will know more for the next meeting. Christina will check on the status of the old sign which is at DECF.

Banner and Decorations-Dan Gardner

No final recommendations at this time.

Airport

Currently the trees are being cut in the approach areas. Guptils have completed the tree cutting on the conservation land across the river. A special thank you to Rich Bard and the Coastal Conservancy for their assistance with the tree removal on the conservation property. No word on when Guptil's will be cutting on the trees on the Brown's property. The tree removal project is scheduled to be completed by April 30th. The Town will be applying to use the Town's Entitlement Funds in 2017 for a new access road and a new terminal building.

A suggestion was made that the committee may want to review the older minutes of the prior meetings and officially adopt them at the next meeting to resolve the concern about them being (drafts).

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2017 at 7:00 a.m.

Proposal for Machias Community Building

This proposal is meant to describe the concept of a multi-use community enclosure. This structure could be located near shopping areas and provide a protected space benefitting all age groups in all four seasons. The presence of such a building would be another incentive to shop in Machias. A sheltered area for people to walk, congregate and use for many other activities out of the weather would be possible with a removable Clear Span building that would function as a huge greenhouse with the dimensions determined by the size of the site chosen. The fabric for the building could be clear on one side for views of the surrounding area, and guaranteed for fifteen years.

There are a number of different ways this could be managed and funded. If the owner of the lot wanted to retain the title to the property, perhaps it could be leased to whatever entity ends up funding and managing it. One such entity could be the town of Machias, another could be a citizens' group with representatives from different segments of the population. Possible stakeholders would be health and exercise related agencies, schools, community gardeners, the Machias Chamber of Commerce, and entertainers.