

Machias Revitalization Committee Minutes - **April 14, 2017**

7 a.m. Bluebird Ranch Restaurant

Prior to the meeting, members reviewed the list of members currently published on the town of Machias website and updated it to reflect current membership. Current members and their contact information are:

Hailey Moody - haileywmoody@yahoo.com

Vicki Boone - vboone@machiassavings.com

Angela Fochesato - angela@healthyacadia.org

Dan Gardner - daniel.j.gardner@maine.edu

Kehben Grier - kehbenbee@gmail.com

Katherine Mahon Holmes - thinkpeace_98@yahoo.com

Eric Jones - eric.jones1@maine.edu

Lisa Schaefer - lms92155@yahoo.com

Sharon Mack - sharonkileymack@hotmail.com

Rich Bard - rich@downeastcoastalconservancy.org

Sandi Malagara - sandi.malagara@gmail.com

Amy Marsh - amy.marsh@bangor.com

Nancy Mirman - nmimirman@optonline.net (seasonal)

Gail Peters - peters28g@myfairpoint.net

Town liaisons:

Selectman Joshua Rolfe - joshuarolfe1974@gmail.com

Selectman James Whalen - whalendoc@gmail.com

Town Manager Christina Therrien - townmanager@gmail.com

Total members - 12, with four liaisons.

Attendance: Angela Fochesato, Sharon Mack, Hailey Moody, James Whalen, Josh Rolfe, Rich Bard, Christina Therrien, Sandi Malagara. Bob Berta of CountyWide News walked through and took several photographs and then left. Don Flicker was scheduled to discuss a community center but did not attend.

Sandi Malagara reported that razing the building she now rents from RH Foster for Expressions will likely not happen until after 2020. She expects to remain at that location. She also reported that she had been approached by Sandi Bryand to coordinate a mural project on at least three, possibly four buildings on Main Street. Sandi B. would financially sponsor the project and the murals would be expected to depict Machias history. They would be located on the buildings housing Expressions, Woodwind Market and Bags 'O Rags. Christina Therrien will ask the Nash family if the front of their

building can be painted with a mural. The committee was overwhelmingly supportive of the project. "I am very pleased at this offer and thrilled with the idea," Christina said. Sandi M. will act as project manager and work with Sandi B. on the designs, painters, etc. The motion was made by Josh, seconded by Sharon and the vote was unanimous to support the project.

Rich Bard said a cleanup of the dyke and Middle River Park areas has been set for 9-11 a.m. on May 13. He said that the replacement of the dyke and/or flappers is back on the MDEP radar and this might be a good opportunity to make the dyke more attractive, using green spaces and benches, etc. Rich will keep the committee posted on such efforts and Christina said there will be public hearings on the project.

Christina reported that the Riverwalk proposal could be part of a town/MDOT project that would involve dredging the Machias River Bay, creating berms with the dredged material to protect low lying businesses, and creating and/or restoring the cribwork along the banks of the estuary. This would provide water side landowners with some security about their properties and the Riverwalk could be placed right on top of the cribwork. She said this project would be about 3 years out and involve federal funding and grants.

Angela reported that the script for the audio, self-guided history walk has been completed by Valdine Atwood and will now be recorded. An app is being created to allow visitors to use a QR code to download the app to their smart phones. CDs of the walk will be available at the Machias Chamber of Commerce, along with booklets and maps. This project was paid for through Healthy Main Street grant funds.

The committee unanimously approved the minutes of meetings from November 2016 to March of 2017.

Sandi M. reported that the \$8,000 Arbor Grant was obtained by the Green Space Committee and fully approved on 4/13/17 by the Machias Board of Selectmen. A Green Team committee meeting will be scheduled to plan the next steps.

Members mentioned various upcoming events: Yoga Fest in September, Bold Coast Sea and Sky Festival in July, DCC-sponsored free learn to paddle, plant ID and walk and talk, and climate change walk and talk.

Angela said signage is under construction for the Westside Trail and Christina said the Bad Little Falls/Overlook Park sign is also under construction.

Christina reported that she is looking into using Safe Routes to School grant funding for a sidewalk on the Steel Hill portion of Court Street. Josh will call a meeting of the sidewalk committee to talk about design, materials, etc.

Dan Gardner was unable to attend by reported via email to Angela that his efforts to reach the Beehive Collective regarding creation of a historical banner design were unsuccessful and he will now reach out to other artists.

The next meeting will be held at 7 a.m. Friday, May 12, at Bluebird Ranch Restaurant.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Mack, secretary