

Machias Revitalization Committee Minutes

June 9, 2017 @ 7 a.m.

Bluebird Ranch Restaurant

PRESENT: Visitors: Eric Squire, Don Ficker and Cheryl Brissenden-Ficker

New member: Marci Gaglione

Media: Bob Berta, Lynette Smith

Christina Therrien, Lisa Schaefer, Gail Peters, Amy Marsh, Sandi Malagara, Eric Jones, Nancy Mirman, Joshua Rolfe, Rich Bard, Bill Kitchen, Katherine Mahon Holmes, Vicki Boone, Jim Whalen, Sharon Mack

Amy Marsh, as co-chairman, called the meeting to order. The minutes of May 12 were unanimously approved (Motion: Joshua Rolfe, Second: Eric Jones).

Don Ficker addressed the group regarding his proposal to create a new community center on Cherryfield Foods property adjacent to Middle River Park. He asked if a subcommittee could be formed to begin a dialogue with the community about needs, funding, etc. Several MRC members volunteered to serve on the committee - Christina, Rich Bard, Sandi Malagara, Kathryn Mahon Holmes, Eric Jones, Vicki Boone) but it was decided that such a committee might be better under the selectmen's direction for submitting grants and fundraising. Christina will ask the selectmen to create a committee and Ficker will present his ideas to the selectmen on June 28.

Jim Whalen said a sidewalk currently exists on Steel Hill but that the bank has grown over it. Christina said she will check with MDOT and Olver Associates.

Katherine Mahon Holmes will meet with the St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church on Free Street to see if the MRC can assist with their plans to create a community garden.

Christina reported that the town received a \$50,000-\$55,000 grant to study the riverwalk, cribwork and dredging. Machias Savings Bank will provide matching funds and help was received with the grant from Tora Johnson at UMM and Judy East of WCCOG. Therrien said the study will be Phase One, with Phase Two being design work and Phase Three the actual construction. Committee members praised the project which will focus on the waterfront and Machias' river history.

Amy Marsh reported that Angela had directed her to say all other projects - Edible Gardens, Westside Trail, History Tours, Bike Lending Project, Sidewalk projects, Banner and Decorations - are all on target and moving forward.

Christina said plans are moving forward to relocate the Grange at the site of the existing Emera power station, which is being deactivated and disassembled. She added there is also grant money available to create a portage area on the Machias River near the tennis courts.

Sandi Malagara reported that the Green Team has picked up a number of trees using the Arbor Grant and they will be planted at Skywalkers, Town Office, Bluebird Ranch, and Norman Nelson Park. The team will set up a planting day with the town public works' crew and Rotary volunteers.

It was reported and acknowledged that the town of Machias had received nearly \$500,000 for road and terminal construction at the airport. It was also reported and acknowledged that Maine Wild Blueberry had refurbished Fosters' Rubicon. Bob Berta said that blue and white signs had designated historic sites in the past and could be used to capitalize on Machias' history.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Mack, Secretary