

Machias Revitalization Committee Minutes - **December 9, 2016**

7 a.m. Bluebird Ranch Restaurant

Attendance: Angela Fochesato, Amy Marsh, Christina Therrien, Rich Bard, Kathryn Mahon Holmes, Gail Peters, Sharon Mack, Joshua Rolfe, Vicki Boone, press members Robert Berta of County Wide News and Marga James of the Machias Monitor blog.

Public Comment: Mr. Berta presented a letter to the committee regarding the minutes published for the Nov. 18 meeting, saying they were inaccurate and recklessly published. He asked Joshua to read the letter aloud to the entire committee. Joshua read part of the letter and then Christine Therrian moved, Angela seconded, that the letter be made a part of the public record and attached to the permanent minutes. The letter called for the immediate resignation of Secretary Sharon Mack. No action was taken on this request. (Note: as soon as I receive a copy of the letter, I will attach it here.)

New Business:

Election of Officers: The slate of officers was unanimously accepted, keeping all current officers in their seats and all committees intact. Kathryn Mahon Holmes was added to the Dog Park and Green Space Committees.

Old Business:

Via email, Sandi Malagara reported that a mandatory grant workshop for the Arbor Foundation Grant will be held on December 16 and all members of the Green Team must attend. Christina Therrien said that the Machias Board of Selectmen accepted the Arbor Grant on November 30 and it will be submitted by Jan. 18.

Angela reported the Incredible Edible Grant has not been determined yet.

Angela and Christina reported on various surfaces that the Sidewalk Committee is investigating, including textured concrete and paint that only appears when it is raining. Angela said Z-bricks come in sections and there could be a "buy a section" campaign to finance their installation.

Christina reported that the sign to Bad Little Falls is nearly complete and could be installed except that the wording detailing the falls project is missing. Sharon offered to put a call out on Facebook to see if any citizen has a photo with the correct wording on it that could be used to complete the sign.

There was no Banner Committee report.

Christine reported that the MDOT Traffic Study for four primary locations will be presented to the Machias Board of Selectmen on Dec. 13. She said that MDOT has approved all the ideas presented but that they had no funding. Christina said they could possibly fund 50 percent of one project but that would be a stretch. There was a lengthy discussion about the committee's disappointment that the MDOT's funding is inadequate. Christina said the group should remember that there are 297 Maine bridges over 90 years old and the state's entire infrastructure is compromised. She said that the town could possibly make some small changes on Steel Hill that could increase safety.

The Airport beacon, heat, and wind sock are all installed, Christina reported. She said the town has submitted a Notice of Intent to the FAA for next year's \$150,000 allocation for an access road and new terminal building. If the tree removal project is not completed by April, she said, the town will lose that funding. Angela congratulated the Airport Committee on the great spirit of volunteerism they have shown and the tremendous amount of work they have completed in the past year.

At the close of the meeting, Sharon offered to resign if the committee felt her presence was a distraction from the group's work. The committee did not accept her offer.

The next meeting will be held on January 13 at Bluebird Ranch Restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Mack, Secretary

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December 9, 2016

Town of Machias/Revitalization Committee
Board of Selectmen
P.O. Box 606
Machias, Maine 04654

RE: Sharon Mack and internet behavior

On November 18, 2016 Ms. Mack released fully incorrect information in a negligent and reckless manner. Within an hour she was told her report on me was "incorrect in whole and in part." Despite being informed of this, she and agents of the Town of Machias recklessly and in disregard of fact published inaccurate information on the town's official website.

Including, but not limited to:

From July 23, 2016 till November 17, 2016 was one meeting in 117 days. Ms. Mack has been negligent in fact and recklessly quoted "120 days". The phrase was never uttered. What is the purpose of Ms. Mack acting in a negligent and reckless manner?

Ms. Mack made a wrong assumption about WCCOG to a statement she attributed in her publication. The WCCOG was a centerpiece later in the meeting of comments by Town Manager Christine Thermen. Why is Ms. Mack acting in a thoughtless and reckless manner again?

Ms. Mack was unaware the late Mr. Fochesato has been friends almost 40 years. An email was sent to Ms. Fochesato at the time of her mother's death to extend condolences. Ms. Mack has recklessly and negligently stated on the internet conversations were taking place with dead people. Clearly Ms. Mack has shown malice in not bothering to hear the story. This makes her additional reckless and negligent.

Clearly as a 1976 graduate of UMM in history it is known Joseph Stalin killed 20 million people. Clearly Ms. Mack has acted in a thoughtless, reckless and negligent manner.

When Ms. Fochesato was told if she didn't "like" stories she could write letters to the editor to County Wide. Ms. Fochesato complained that newspapers edit letters for fact and wouldn't write one. Clearly Ms. Mack yet again reported this matter factually incorrectly, with reckless conduct and negligence.

There were reports published in the newspaper of Ms. Mack being suspended without pay by the Bangor Daily News. Why is the town allowing this person to recklessly and incorrectly report on events of the Downtown Revitalization Committee?

When April Adams and Jermar Inman led the Revitalization Committee they reported that Ms. Mack took the notes and the notes went missing. Why is the Committee allowing Ms. Mack to take notes and be reckless in regards to the facts?

In the past we have informed Ms. Mack's superiors about her online behavior at work and at night from her private email. We are now bringing this action to the attention of the Town. Why is the town letting Ms. Mack operate in a reckless and negligent manner?

There are additional errors and omissions which can be addressed at a later time.

We are requesting that Ms. Mack resign or be removed by the town immediately as she has put many members in legal jeopardy by her behavior.

Sincerely,