

Machias Revitalization Committee
October 12, 2018

Present: Charlene Cates, Angela Fochesato, Jim Jackson, Bob Jean, Bill Kitchen, Gail Peters, Josh Rolfe, Christina Therrien

Angela announced that Katherine Holmes has resigned as she is moving from the area.

Public Comments: There were no comments.

Minutes: The minutes from the September meeting were unavailable. They were taken by Josh Rolfe.

Grants: *Water Front Resilience & Renewal Project* Christina reminded us of an important meeting on Monday, October 15th from 5 to 7 in Science Room 102 at UMM. This meeting will include discussion of the area from the parking lot behind the Machias Hardware Store to the causeway with a small section across the river. This is all part of the river front flood plain and downtown renewal. Christina also reported that both FEMA and MEMA met with her this past week. They discussed the current efforts and plans to move forward. This is part of the three-phase effort regarding the project. The FEMA pre-mitigations grant is due the middle of November.

Christina stressed the need for all regulatory agencies to be involved in the Design, the second phase of the project. Conservancy groups also will be part of the design phase. All efforts will be made to minimize the environmental impact to the area. Some areas will be more difficult than others to remediate. The goal is to leave the area as natural as possible without undue man-made structures. This will also help preserve the historical aspects of the water front. Christina praised Tora Johnson and Judy East who have been extremely helpful in participating in the efforts and gathering data.

Discussion ensued regarding buildings on the water front. As buildings change hands, if they are torn down, they cannot be rebuilt on the same location due to flooding issues. The emphasis continues to be on saving the downtown from flooding and erosion. A river walk may become a by-product of these efforts. This project will have a crucial impact on the area's economy. Machias Savings Bank has provided matching funds for the project to keep the tax impact minimal. TIF money is also available.

Westside Trail: This project continues to be on hold while the town completes its excavation work in the area.

Community Engagement for Main Street Transformation: Anne Ball Program Director, Maine Downtown Center, Maine Development Foundation and Angela will meet this coming week to discuss the next steps in the process.

History Tour: The map has been completed. The first and second recordings are done. The next step is the QR code.

Banners and Decorations: Due to Dan Gardiner's continued workload at UMM, Angela asked for a new chair. Machias Savings Bank has given the town \$800 for Christmas Banners. Individuals in town has also offered to contribute. Christina is researching the various companies that could produce a resilient banner of the correct size. Dan Gardiner has designs of suggested banners. Angela will meet with him today for copies. In addition, the town should have a logo and/or motto that appears on banners which are up at all times other than specific holiday times. The slogan "History lives here," met with favorable comments.

Other decorations: Gail told the committee of the Green Team which has formed in the Machias area. The team would like to place flower boxes under each town sign. The raised bed boxes would be painted white and say in green Home of UMM. Gail was told the town does not own the property where the signs are placed. She would need to get permission from the landowners. Pineo's owns the land at the north sign. Gail will research the owner of the south sign land.

Paintings Main Street: Nancy Mirman is researching how to have new town signs painted, stenciled, printed, etc. Nancy has also recommended the use of Hamilton blue paint by Benjamin Moore. This is one of the colors in her color chart developed to emphasize our colonial history. Nancy has purchased paint for the town. It was noted that metal signs seem to be a preferred material for signs especially when treated with anti-fade coating. Angela will discuss this with Nancy. It was further suggested that the tagline Home of Maine Wild Blueberries be dropped from the sign. All concurred that "History lives here," is a more comprehensive description of Machias.

Dog Park: Katherine Mahon is moving from the area. There is money from a Go Fund Me sight for the dog park effort. That money will be given to the town to be held in escrow in the event another group forms to make this a reality. The town is supportive of such efforts but does not want to take over the project or maintain any dog park location in the future.

Airport: The town did not get funding for the master plan update and design. The deadline for the application for the second round of funding is the end of October. The existing capital plan and funds still available and moving forward. The airport is expected to re-open on November 1st. There are a few landscaping details to complete but will not interfere with the airport traffic. The access road will be paved prior to the November 1 opening.

Discussion followed regarding a new airport sign. Stantac and Lane are donating the new sign. Thank you to both companies. After completing the required updates from the FAA, the next two projects are fuel tanks and hangers. It is anticipated that they will be in progress by 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail J. Peters, Secretary