

Lower Village Committee Minutes Monday March 7, 2016 – 8:00 AM

1. Betsy called the meeting to order.
2. Bonnie made a motion to approve the minutes from February. Seconded and approved.
3. Sgt. Andy Belisle commented that there have been a lot of special event applications to the town for road races. All agreed that it would be nice to be notified in advance regarding road closures. Perhaps Facebook could be used to get the word out.
4. Bonnie reported on the most recent bridge meeting. The color choices have come down to black or dark tan. The vote will be decided by email. CMP will start replacing light poles starting near Saxony Imports. The plan is for the project to start in the fall. They're still looking at a 45-day closure in April and May of 2017. They will start building the foot bridge in the fall, to go to the parking lot behind Hurricane's Restaurant. Laura mentioned there is a Facebook page with information titled "Lanigan Bridge".
5. Betsy reported on the Comp Plan Update Committee. They have hired sub-contractors and Mat Eddy is coordinating the process. Residents will be notified in their tax bill about a planning questionnaire which they can fill out online or on paper. People will be encouraged to respond whether or not they are legal residents or registered to vote in Kennebunk.
6. There will be a March hearing for the ZBA regarding Aroma Joes on Portland Road.
7. Laura and Mat reported that there will be March 24 Job Fair at Town Hall - approximately 30 businesses have signed up to display. The Chamber has added two seminars:
 1. March 15th 2:30pm Resume Writing and Updating
 2. March 23rd 6pm Preparing for the Job Interview
8. Laura gave a Chamber update: They are in the process of preparing the Guide Book. Membership in the Chamber is up - currently 437 members. The Chamber is also already working on the summer cruise ship and bus visit schedules. Laura pointed out that you do not have to be a Chamber member to receive the newsletter - people can sign up for it via the Chamber website.
9. Betsy was asked to submit a 2016 annual report of the Lower Village Committee to the Town, which she did based it on previous year's reports. It focuses on the visioning process and efforts to follow up on the six specific subsets of interests that were developed in the visioning process. The report will be in the Town annual report online.
10. Greg had a conversation with Maureen, the owner of the Village Marketplace, about potential parking. She is not interested in developing a lot that would be open to the general public but is happy to continue to leave her spaces available during Prelude.
11. Totem Pole signs – Greg and Pat did a walk around to determine the best locations. Pat spoke to some business owners regarding placement of signs. Potential locations: Coopers Corner, trolley stop (Port Road), near the Lanigan Bridge, near the Washington Hose Fire Station, by Bennett's Sub Shop on Sea Road. Greg and Pat will follow up with Judy Bernstein on next steps. Laura suggested talking to Caroline Segalas and Barry Tibbetts about where the new way finding signs will be going. Also, Chris Osterrieder is a good resource about sign placement. Mat mentioned that we cannot get rid of any DOT "Route" signs.
12. Update from Maureen at River Tee Arts. They are in the home stretch regarding the formal plan for fund raising. They will be posting a newsletter on their website. There will be an event on the 22nd to showcase students and faculty and there will be a capital campaign to raise funds to pay off the mortgage. They are also looking at grants as a source of funding and are in talks with a couple of banks.
13. John Daamen from the Ralph Waldo Emerson Inn is trying to get a 6 room limit approved for B&Bs instead of the current 4 room limit in the Suburban Residential Zone, which abuts

Lower Village on the West and North boundaries. He submitted that it is hard to make a B&B smaller than 6 rooms financially feasible. He pointed out that the Hound's-tooth Inn and Grasshopper Inn have recently closed. The proposal will need review by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen to get on the June ballot. There may be objections from the Historic Preservation Committee (an overlay to Suburban Residential). The Lower Village Committee is generally supportive but did not take a formal vote since Lower Village is not included in the zone in question.

14. The presence of the large dump trucks parked on the Baum property on Western Avenue was brought up by a couple of Committee members who feel that the trucks make an unsightly "gateway" to Lower Village. Currently there are no town ordinances to prevent people from parking large commercial vehicles in the Coastal Residential Zone.
15. Design Standards - Bob Metcalf (Kennebunk Planning Board) will come to an upcoming meeting to brief the Committee on his experience with design standards. Judy Bernstein sent Betsy the standards for Route 1/Portland Road, which Greg will review. It seems that some of the language and aesthetic contained in that ordinance might be adopted wholesale into any Lower Village ordinance.
16. A resident from Morning Walk (residential, not shops) asked about sidewalks down Port Road, citing resident concerns about pedestrian safety. She was told that nothing is planned until 2018 when scheduled water and sewer work will be coordinated with street and sidewalk work.
17. Laura mentioned that the Chamber is planning a 3-day festival June 17-19 called Launch. Please visit their website www.launchfestme.com. There will be some signature events in Lower Village.
18. Meeting adjourned
19. Next meeting to be held on Monday April 4, 2016 at 8am - Washington Hose Fire Station

Present:

Committee Members:

Betsy Smith
Bonnie Clement
Wendy Ross
Greg Burke
Pat Foley
Theresa Willette
Laura Dolce

Other Guests:

Dick Morin, Town Selectmen
Andy Belisle, Kennebunk Police Department
Mat Eddy, Economic Development Committee
Maureen DiGiovanni, River Tree Center for the Arts
Edie Lamberts
Leila Jahncke
John & Kathy Daamen, Ralph Waldo Emerson Inn
Dick Lamberts
Kingsley Gallup
Maureen Phillips
Joseph Newpol
Robert Lyons
Nona Lyons