

Lower Village Meeting
Minutes
April 4 2016

1. Betsy called the meeting to order at 8:00 am
2. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the March 2016 minutes.
3. The banners in Lower Village are up thanks to Bonnie. Mat is going to ask Eric from DPW for a list of things like planters, banners and benches that are scheduled for Lower Village. (NB – Eric will meet with us in June to discuss Public Works activities in Lower Village).
4. There is a Lower Village Facebook page (managed by Helen Thorgalsen and Wendy Ross). They will make an effort to make more regular posts regarding Lower Village Agenda and Town Meetings that impact Lower Village. There was a suggestion that it would be helpful to list upcoming road races in LV and at the Beach. Wendy and Helen will work on formatting the page for mobile applications.
5. The Lower Village Committee has \$6,985.91 (6/16) earmarked on the Town books. Bonnie recommended tree guards to be placed before any bridge and road work gets started. Mat will check on pricing for those. Some other ideas for use of funds were free Wi-Fi and more benches. Laura will check into a bench program with the possibility of getting sponsorships from local businesses. Greg suggested a meeting or a survey of Lower Village businesses as to how they would like to see the money spent. Laura mentioned that according to a Maine Tourism study, flowers, signage and benches are reasons for people to visit. It also makes the residents feel they live in a successful area. Action Steps: Poll business owners as to location and placement of benches. Laura will ask Barry about official town benches and get pricing. It was suggested that some Committee members do a walkabout to consider placement of benches to welcome visitors while not encouraging vagrancy.
6. Sgt. Belisle gave an update on Police activities in Lower Village, not much to report. He will get a list of upcoming road races and road closures.
7. Chamber Update from Laura: They now have 457 members. The newest member are the Bards who have purchased Kennebooks on

Port Road. Their plans include a bistro, a cooking school and an event barn in the back.

The Launch Festival will take place June 17, 18 and 19. There will be a boat parade on the river. There is a webpage as well as a Facebook page. There will be events in all 3 villages. The Waterhouse Center will hold a cooking competition. There will be a road race Saturday afternoon to benefit a cancer charity. Events behind the Pilot House include a lobster bake on Saturday and a VIP event on the Spirit of Massachusetts. They are working with 8 non-profits.

The Chamber job fair was successful.

Laura also mentioned that No Place Like Home is a new volunteer organization located in Kennebunk. The Town is in the process of forming a committee on elder affairs and will be advertising for members soon.

8. Pat and Greg updated us on the totem pole signs. They have come up with 5 locations and a list of rules. They will need to talk to Chris O. about the potential locations. The next step is a meeting with Judy Bernstein about ordinance requirements. Pat mentioned that they have a desire to keep this as simple as possible. (NB following the meeting, Chris Osterrieder advised that there may be State regulations that prohibit this type of sign – he offered to follow up with the Town attorney. We need to find out what he learned and why Kennebunkport has not run into problems with their totem poles.)
9. Greg attended a River Committee meeting and mentioned that they have concerns about the safety implications of the very narrow head room under the bridge at high tide. Bonnie noted that this had been discussed early on at Bridge Committee meetings and that the possibility of raising the level of the bridge had been dismissed for both financial and logistical reasons.
10. Betsy said that Jake Aman from the Wells Reserve will address the next River Committee meeting on 4/19/16 regarding the increasingly high bacteria counts in the River.
11. Bonnie commented on the very large tree on the north side of Western Avenue that has been cut down to the stump and wondered about the possibility of having the stump carved. Edie Lamberts offered to follow up with Nancy Viehmann whose husband has carved stumps in the past.

12. Dick Morin updated those present on the Board of Selectman activities.
13. Mat is going to check on Town regulations re tree removal in Lower Village when they are located on a business's property (NB two very large trees have been taken down in recent weeks – Mat later reported that both had approvals from the Town).
14. Laura reported that the Chamber is working with the Wells Reserve on grant applications for research on flood planning for businesses.
15. The next meeting will be held on Monday May 2, 2016 at 8am at the Washington Hose Fire Station.
16. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

ATTENDING:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Betsy Smith Co-chair
Bonnie Clement – Co-chair
Wendy Ross - Secretary
Laura Dolce
Greg Burke
Pat Foley
Theresa Willette

OTHER GUESTS

Sgt Andy Belisle, Kennebunk Police Department
Dick Morin, Selectman
Mathew Eddy, Director of Economic Development
Edie Lamberts
Nina Spencer