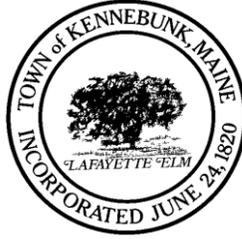


Town of Kennebunk, Maine



Press Release

January 8, 2015

A Vision for Lower Village: Come, Participate, Create.

On January 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., at the Washington Hose Company Fire Station, the Lower Village Committee will hold the first session of a four part visioning process. The process is meant to help paint a picture of the future for Lower Village, providing direction and actions to achieve that future. This session is open to anyone in the community; your help and participation are encouraged.

The Lower Village has experienced many changes over the last forty years. The residential mix of seasonal and year round homes has changed. Businesses have come and gone, sometimes with surprisingly regular turnover, other times as long term cornerstones of the community. Traditional water front businesses have declined. The Lower Village's neighbor, Kennebunkport has grown into a very popular tourist destination. The Lower Village, itself, has experienced a steady increase in the hospitality industry.

This change created some natural issues that every waterfront village experiences: cars and pedestrian access, access to the water, parking, and tourist busses. With change also came diversity and vitality and a hub of business that employs many people. The visioning process seeks to maintain that vitality, with a sustainable balance that can be enjoyed by all. It is a meeting that will hopefully permit businesses and residents to share ideas and thoughts, as we look into the future.

The process will include four steps:

- Step 1: An Introduction to the Lower Village
- Step 2: A Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats analysis for the Lower village (February 26th).
- Step 3: Emergent Themes and Actions for the Lower Village (March 26th)
- Step 4: Presentation of Initial Lower Village Vision for community reaction, input, and further refinement (April 23rd)

Other meetings may be added if needed. A final report will be presented to the Lower Village Committee and board of Selectmen for review and approval. If you have an interest, please come and share your ideas.