

Village Enhancement Committee

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022

Location: Webster Hall

Time: 5:30-6:30

Topic: Main-Land project proposal; Community Kiosk; Welcome to Kingfield Signs; Art for Electrical boxes; amphitheater

Present: Marie Daigle, Katherine Donnelly, Ashley Hopwood Farrar, Judy Lewald, Jed Nickerson, Jan Royall, Todd Towle, Sue Davis

Absent: Melissa Hoisington

The Village Enhancement Committee chair Marie Daigle called the Nov. 10, 2022, meeting to order at 5:30 pm. With one correction, the minutes of the October 13 meeting were approved, committee member Sue Davis abstaining because she was absent.

Main-Land bid for riverside project

The Committee was pleased to receive a bid from Main-Land Development Consultants of Livermore Falls to create an "Agreement for Professional Services Site Plan for Dam Access" for the VEC's riverside project. Their bid comes in at \$1,800-\$2,200 "at Time and Expense." Davis moved acceptance of the proposal, seconded by Judy Lewald.

In discussion, additional work beyond the plan, in consultations, meetings and/or site visits, would be at "Time and Expense." The committee asked to know what that translates to in \$/hr. or other method of charging, should the committee need additional help, for example with permitting. Jan Royall and Davis, in charge of this project, will contact Main-Land for that rate when they present the proposal to the Select Board for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

Royall and Davis will attend the Nov. 21 Select Board meeting to request final approval. Main-Land anticipates submitting deliverables noted in the Scope of Services within 4 to 5 weeks of the signed proposal agreement, which would be by the first of 2023. That would give the committee the winter and early spring to finalize contractors for the project, in hopes that it would be complete for next Spring-Summer.

Visitor information kiosk.

At the October 13 meeting, Claudia Diller suggested that the Post Office was the perfect place for a community information kiosk. Davis noted that Select Board member Polly MacMichael had suggested having such an information board at one of MacMichael's first board meetings over a year ago. Chair Daigle discussed it with postmaster Dean Stanley who asked if it would have better visibility for more people at Mainely Provisions on Rt. 27. The committee appeared to agree that it was more a community service than a random drive-by information service. It also agreed that it would serve nonprofits and official community business rather than for-profit businesses.

Details include location, design, who would maintain and update listings, etc. Committee member Todd Towle suggested that all local nonprofits be notified of its possible availability. Committee members Ashley Hopwood Farrar, Judy Lewald and Katherine Donnelly agreed to research these details to bring options to the committee. Committee members agreed that they would take pictures of similar information kiosks as they travelled about.

Welcome-to-Kingfield sign locations

Committee members Melissa Hoisington and Judy Lewald researched and photographed possible locations for Welcome to Kingfield signs on the East and West entrances to town. All agreed on either of the two west-side locations, but seemed to agree on only one of the east-side location.



Lewald will take the selections to Administrative Assistant Leanna Targett who explained that the Town will handle both landowner permissions and installation.

Dan Davis, who has maintained the signs since he and members of the USA Bicentennial Committee installed the first two signs in 1976, will meet with Town staff and provide some oversight on installation. Davis has removed the sign north of town for maintenance. It was in such poor condition that he took it to Signworks. Since they are building the two new signs, Signworks recommended rebuilding the north-side sign completely. The committee was happy to have the update.

Public Art for electrical boxes.

Many consider the electrical control boxes for the town's new street lights eyesores, resulting in discussions about turning them into public art. Once the installation is complete, the Town will own them, and the VEC can then proceed with suggestions for improving them. The committee decided that it presented an opportunity for a public art contest, restricted to Maine artists residing in Maine. Jan Royall, herself an artist, insisted that there should be a cash prize over and above the notoriety it might represent.

Committee member Todd Towle agreed to research possibilities that would include how a public art contest would work, whether the committee itself would be the jury or it would appoint a jury, what type of paint might be used, etc., for the committee's continued discussion. All agreed that it should be kept "as local as local can be."

Amphitheatre

Wastewater superintendent Travis Targett has suggested that part of the riverside next to Rte. 27 coming into town from the south provides a natural amphitheater. Several on the committee agree that it should be looked into for a possible venue for such events as Kingfield Pops. As town-owned property, it could be the site for other events as well.

Davis mentioned that she knew of at least two locals who object strenuously to such development. But she was also unsure of exactly what part of the riverside was meant. Parking could be an issue. Instead of actual site visits, the committee decided that each person would attempt to visit the site personally. Chair Daigle thought that the return-on-investment could be quite short considering that the Pops pays \$10,000 for the use of the Kennedy field.

After determining the next meeting to be Thursday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Webster Hall, Lewald (?) moved to adjourn, seconded by Davis (?). Respectfully submitted, Sue Davis for Melissa Hoisington, Secretary.