

## Village Enhancement Committee

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
Location: Webster Hall  
Time: 5:00-6:15  
Topics: Utility Box Art Project, East River Project, Tree Canopy Project, Benches, Bulletin Board, EV Chargers  
Present: Jess Beers, Sue Davis, Claudia Diller, Katherine Donnelly, Judy Lewald, Jan Royall  
Absent: Melissa Hoisington  
Public: Ada Donnelly, age 7 months

Chair Susan Davis opened the meeting at 5:04. The agenda was accepted. *Judy Lewald moved acceptance of the November 8 minutes, seconded by Jan Royall. All approved.*

***Utility Boxes art project***

Katherine (Jan?) reported that Patty Thomas (?) had not been paid. Claudia texted Leanna to ask about it. *[Leanna had no paperwork for the bill; Sue texted Katherine to follow up.]*

***Dam Access/Guardrail-parking plan***

Davis and Jan Royall met with Town Manager Leanna Targett to go over several VEC projects, the big one being to move the guard rail back to provide parking for picnic table and dam access, given the probable price tag. Reporting her conversations with MDOT, Davis emphasized that Kingfield has received a permit-by-rule from the Department of Environmental Protection and approval from the Army Corps of Engineers to fix the dam access from recent flooding and to install steps to the river.

Through her contact Rhobe Moulton at MDOT, Davis was contacted by Tony Beaulieu, MDOT P.E. (Professional Engineer) in charge of this region, who confirmed that moving the guardrail was possible and could be funded by a grant from the Village Enhancement Initiative with a 60% MDOT/40% municipal match, which the Town's TIF could provide.

Beaulieu guesstimated the cost would be \$50,000, or double if sidewalks were added. It would include:

- Resetting the existing guard rail to widen for parking
- Shoulder widening construction
- (Sidewalk and curbing)
- Drainage
- (Raised crosswalk/speed table)

This would require work from a P.E., in our case continuing with Main-Land's Emily Hastings. Davis contacted Hastings, who asked three questions:

1. Would the VEC want help writing the Village Partnership Initiative grant
2. Does the VEC need design help for the sidewalk and speed table
3. The VEC will need a survey to determine the MDOT ROW

The committee agreed that it could do the grant themselves, that they might need Main-Land help with sidewalk design depending on MDOT's design team and definitely want a survey to be done. Davis will get back to Hastings.

### ***Tree Canopy project***

Davis met with Robin Konieczko about the tree canopy project. They thought Kingfield/the VEC needs to establish the parameters of need before applying for a grant. Davis proposed the VEC act as a committee-of-the-whole starting out, seeking help from the area forester Julie Davenport and from a local forester and other possibly interested volunteers.

Davenport is on leave and referred Davis to [forestinfo@maine.gov](mailto:forestinfo@maine.gov) for help in the meantime. Davis emailed for help today and will report back. *[After the meeting, Jess Beer suggested that her husband Will Jeffries, a forester, would be interested in this project.]*

### ***Benches***

Leanna Targett reported that she had ordered the benches (and was checking with the treasurer to confirm that the check had been sent). The benches will not be shipped until the Spring, so storage is not an issue. Also, the Town has a forklift so that the added expense for a tailgate can be avoided.

Targett has drafted landowner permission forms for the benches and the Bulletin Board for the Select Board to approve. Davis showed drafts of both to the committee; Targett hopes to have approval at the next, December 18, SB meeting.

### ***Bulletin Board***

Claudia Diller presented her draft of a bulletin board design to present to the Select Board for their Dec. 18 meeting for approval. She will hope to have estimates of cost from the carpenter and Signworks at that time. Diller intends Town Boards and committees will be responsible for their postings, that the VEC will monitor the board, that there will be a standard set of rules for its use.

Diller also proposed that she offer Mainely Provisions to have a similar board created for the other side of the windows for community news. There seemed to be consensus that the VEC be prepared to fund the second board as well, if MP did not offer to pay for it.

*Royal moved that Diller present the bulletin board concept with design to the Select Board and offer to do one for Mainely Provisions. Judy Lewald seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

### ***Other***

Royall noted that the Keenan building was for sale and that it owned the empty lot between it and the Mason's building. She suggested the Town buy it and create electric vehicle chargers there. She will investigate further what the lot might cost.

Diller thought there might be room for vehicle chargers between Anni's and CSM.

Next VEC meeting: Wednesday 1/17/23 @ 5:00pm , Webster Hall (SB Worksession scheduled on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., 1/12)

Katherine Donnelly moved to adjourn, seconded by Jess Bess. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Davis for Mellissa Hoisington.

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