

approved 5/8/24

Minutes

VEC Meeting

April 10, 2024

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Village Enhancement Committee

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Location: Webster Hall
Time: 5:00-6:15
Topics: East River/Dam, Rt. 27, Benches, Website, Village group, etc.
Present: Sue Davis, Jan Royall, Judy Lewald, Claudia Diller,
Absent: Melissa Hoisington, Katherine Donnelly
Public: Polly and Rob MacMichael

- Sue called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM, and declared a quorum
- *Approval of March 20, 2024, minutes: Jan Royall corrected the minutes to note that the Riverside/Dam project still needed a permit from Kingfield's CEO.; Jan moved to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Judy, all in favor.*
- **Vacancy from Jess Beer's resignation:** Sue Davis and Claudia Diller noted that Jess had sent a letter of resignation to the Select Board stating her reasons clearly, citing lack of Select Board support for VEC efforts. Nykola Hanezar and Ryan Reed were discussed as possibly interested. Claudia will meet with Town Manager Leanna Targett to ask if anyone has expressed written interest in serving. *Hanezar*
- **"Dam Project" on the Mill Pond.** Jan reminded the committee that the hold-up in receiving the final Kingfield permit to proceed on the Riverside/Dam project was scheduling a meeting between Mark Wahl and Ben Hitchcock, Kingfield's CEO. She will continue to try to get them together. Wahl needs to know when MDOT will be working on the ROW repair and able to widen access to heavy equipment. Because of the increased estimate, the job may have to be put out to bid, another complication.
- **Bench permissions:** Judy has not been able to meet with Kingfield Town Manager Leanna Targett to get the permission paperwork. School is on vacation next week, so it will be easier for her to get to the Town Office. [Benches are being shipped 5/9, arriving the week of 5/15.] Once they have the paperwork, Judy and Melissa will get landowner permissions and determine how the benches will be installed, whether on cement pads or not and how they will be anchored.
- **Kingfield website:** Claudia has been working with Katherine, who is a website designer but unable to attend tonight because of a cold. Their concept is to create a user-friendly site to provide clean and easy access to Town operations—board and committee meeting agendas and minutes—and promoting Kingfield. The current website is not being kept up; some information is years old. This new website would belong to the Town under the auspices of the Select Board, administered professionally by an outside administrator to take the load off the Town Manager. Costs would be paid for with VEC money or some

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part of the \$9,000 Tif money allocated to the Town Manager for marketing. It could be linked to the official Town Facebook page created in the past several years.

- **Village business group:** Claudia has talked with Julie Swain, who operates the Made in Maine shop in the former Keenan building, about organizing downtown businesses to promote Kingfield. Swain has talked to CSM who is very interested and will talk with the others. Their interest coincides with VEC's mission to market the Town. These could include everything from seasonal banners on light poles to joining Upcountry Artists in a full-page ad in Down East magazine. Marketing would promote shopping on Main Street in Kingfield during Sugarloaf's Skiers Homecoming when Upcountry Artists markets the Art Show at Sugarloaf. Claudia believes that maybe \$4,000 of the \$6,000 currently being spent with the Flagstaff Area Business Association's annual advertising booklet could be better spent marketing Kingfield directly. Kingfield could still be a FABA member and advertise in their booklet for much less than the \$6,000 currently donated. There was some discussion of the businesses helping to advocate for the change.
- **Charging Stations:** Jan has talked with Sharon at Mainely Provisions about locating charging stations in their parking lot. That is on hold because of owner sickness. Proposed locations included the grocery store, Gateway parking, and Sillanpääs General Store/the Country Mutt. Rob MacMichael asked about setting them up with solar panels. Hi-speed three-level chargers need three-phase power, which made them both more complicated and costly to install.
- **Kingfield Rt. 27 Corridor Beautification Project:** Claudia proposed a project to plant trees and flowering bushes on Rt. 27 through the Town area that the VEC is charged to market with TIF money. The VEC can expend funds in the area approximately from the Gateway Parking area to Dollar General. Claudia has talked with Betty Ann Listowich of Norpine Landscaping about assisting, which she would be willing to do for a c. \$500 consulting fee. There is money and design support for such a project available from or through the MDOT directly as well as from its Village Partnership Initiative. Betty Ann needs to have a figure of what Kingfield would be willing to provide in order to come up with a plan. Somewhere between \$350,000 and \$400,000 is available to be spent from TIF funds for VEC projects. Understanding that the Select Board will not approve anything that is not specific, the committee agreed to ask Betty Ann to do what she could to outline such a project. *Jan moved to approach businesses in town to help the VEC advocate for the project based on what other similar communities have done to determine a cost in order to justify starting with \$500 to hire Betty Ann to start the process. The motion was seconded by Judy and passed unanimously.*
- **Other:** The MacMichaels asked about the identification signs on historic buildings around town. They now own the former Keenan buildings at the corner of Depot and Main Street/Rt 27. The first building is the Mitchell Block, the second the Larrabee block, identified in [Kingfield's Historic Walking Tour](#). They would like to know where they can have the signs made up to put on their buildings. Signworks make the signs; Judy will contact them for Polly and Rob.

- **Other:** The MacMichaels asked where the planters are that Cynthia Orcutt funded with a grant several years ago. They would like to know about getting them back, that they would be willing to plant and maintain them and to store them going forward. Sue will ask Leanna where they are, etc.
- **Other:** The MacMichaels asked about the fences between the Mason, Larrabee and Mitchell buildings. They have plans for the space between the buildings and would like to have that one taken down. They were also concerned about the longer one, which needs repair. Noting that they were funded by money from the 2016 Kingfield Bicentennial celebration, Sue will contact Tammy Goldfrank, who chaired the celebration. [These fences are in MDOT ROW, so MDOT may also need to be notified. Sue will follow up on this.]
- **Other:** The MacMichaels reported that Bike Maine has a tutorial about bringing identification to cross walks and other traffic-calming effects that it has worked with MDOT to successfully install in Skowhegan. These include both improved crosswalk identification and lane dividers for critical areas. Bike Maine is willing to work with us on this.

Next meeting May 8

Judy moved to adjourn at 6:15 pm, Jan seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Davis for Melissa Hoisiington, secretary.