



Minutes - Lower Village Committee Meeting
Monday January 6, 2020
9:00 AM Washington Hose

1. Meeting was called to order; introductions were made; minutes from December were approved.
2. Sgt. Andy Belisle reported that the holiday events went smoothly with only a few minor incidents.
3. Betsy Smith updated the Committee on efforts to expand to Lower Village TIF. She reported that she had proposed to the Economic Development Committee that three new residential developments (Lobster Lane, Salt Meadow and Commodore's Landing) be added to the TIF. The acting Economic Development Director, Brian Doyle, followed up with Augusta to confirm that residential properties can be included in TIFs and the response was affirmative. Bob Georgitis of the Economic Development Committee has indicated that he does not believe residential properties should be included in TIFs because of the likelihood that the residences would include children and that the taxes therefrom should not be diverted from supporting the school budget. Betsy's view is that given the demographics of Kennebunk, the "high end" residential properties in question are unlikely to include a significant population of children. She will continue to pursue this avenue of TIF expansion in order to support LV infrastructure improvements. The next step will be to work with June Huston, Chair of the EDC, and the Town's Economic Development Director to move the initiative forward.
4. Patti Sass Perry reported that the Town has received approval for the grant money to install an electric vehicle charging station behind Washington Hose. There followed a discussion of issues that have developed between the residents of School Street and the Town over many years, including illegal parking, trash management, drainage, intrusive lighting, enforcement of the dawn to dusk curfew, etc. Residents of School Street fear that the charging station will be yet another cause of disturbance to their neighborhood. Laura Dolce reported that her five-year experience with the charging station at the Chamber had involved no issues at all and that she doubts the Lower Village experience will be much different. Patti suggested that a privacy fence might be solution to some of the concerns. The question of whether the charging station would be subject to the current "dawn to dusk" regulation was raised.

Betsy and Patti noted that with a timeframe of 18 months from award to installation, there should be ample time to isolate specific issues, to assess their merits and to address them. The LV Committee's mission is to facilitate the resolution of issues like this one to serve the best interests of both businesses and residents. The discussion was tabled with the promise that the residents will be kept informed of every element of the project and everything possible will be done to address and resolve their concerns.

5. Betsy reported that a census of Lower Village street lights came in at 32 – 22 of the old platter lights and 10 of the newer goosenecks. The Energy Efficiency Committee will include these lights in its LED town-wide initiative. Separately, a new member of the Energy Efficiency Committee with extensive experience in outdoor lighting has volunteered to look closely at the Coopers Corner to Christensen Lane stretch of Port Road with regard to the Committee's safety concerns.
6. Betsy reported that she had submitted a 2020-2021 Committee Budget request to the Town for \$3,000 - \$2,500 for the Town's share of the charging station and \$500 for public outreach expenses on the Bicentennial project, composting initiative, possible solar power initiative and benches and planters. The request will be considered during the budget process in February.
7. Miriam Whitehouse, Janice Vance (Planning Board) and Betsy have drafted the proposed Lower Village commercial building design standards into a formal zoning article which Miriam will present to the Planning Board January 18.
8. Alex Gramling reported that he and Laura Dolce are working on a proposal for the Committee to support an "if this house could talk" project for the Bicentennial. Home and business owners would be encouraged to create posters providing as much history of their buildings as possible and display them during the celebration. They are also working on a plan for a June 28 McNamera Park event – a picnic, games, pie eating contest, etc. with the possibility of raising money for food pantries. A "Pie-Centennial" celebration.
9. There was a discussion about whether or not the Rotary is still planning a road race through Lower Village on June 28 - one of the busiest weekends of the summer. Sgt. Belisle reported that there was no formal application as of our meeting date.
10. Selectman Frank Paul reported that the Board is about to go into the very busy budget season. He also noted that Mike Pardue's decision to run for State Senate had the full approval and support of the Select Board. Pat Foley noted that she had had concerns about the pressures on Mike's time but that she now believes that Kennebunk will be well served if he wears both hats.
11. Patti reported that River Tree Arts will host a public information meeting on food composting in an effort to get more residents and businesses on board. A representative from Compost It will be present. There is a parallel project underway to address the animal waste challenge and reduce its impact on the landfill waste stream.

She also reported that the Energy Efficiency Committee has been successful in its application to bring a Fellow and an Intern from UNH to Kennebunk to work on carbon footprint and climate change initiatives. They will coordinate with the new hire at Southern Maine Planning.

12. There was a brief discussion about the poor condition of the sidewalks in Lower Village in recent weeks. Delayed plowing and the freeze-thaw-freeze cycle has resulted in more black ice than usual on the sidewalks. Residents are encouraged to email specific danger points to Bryan Laverriere at Public Services – he is extremely responsive to input from the public.
13. Paul Humphrey reported that he is continuing to work on the trash receptacle problem and may have some ideas for us at upcoming meetings.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00. Next meeting is Monday, February 3, 2020.

Betsy Smith - Chair
Pat Foley – Acting Secretary
Rick Taranto
Nina Spencer
Theresa Willette
Laura Dolce
Alex Gramling
Patti Sass Perry

Sgt. Andy Belisle – KPD
Frank Paul – Select Board Liaison
Dick Roy
Tera Khalsa
Paul Humphrey