



Minutes - Lower Village Committee Meeting
Monday February 3, 2020
9:00 AM Washington Hose

1. Meeting was called to order. Introductions were made. January minutes were approved.
2. Sgt. Andy Belisle confirmed the recent news that he will be retiring from the KPD in April. His replacement will be Patrol Officer Tom Arnold. All present expressed their sadness at his departure but wished him a wonderful retirement. He has been a longtime and very good friend to Lower Village.
3. Betsy Smith reported that the Economic Development Committee will be forming a TIF working group which will, among other things, look at the possibility of expanding the Lower Village TIF to include residential properties.
4. Betsy also noted that there is a proposal in very early stages in the State Legislature to ban fireworks in the shoreland zone other than for formal holiday events.
5. There was a brief discussion about the recent sale of the Mousam River dams to First Hydro. Although the Town has been advised by the Town attorney that KPL did not need permission from the voters to dispose of the dams because they had no significant value to the rate payers, some residents disagree with the "no significant value" judgement.
6. Patti Sass Perry, liaison to the Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee, reported on a plan to hold a March meeting with Lower Village residents and restaurants on the subject of composting. She highly recommended the movie "Waste" which details the magnitude of America's waste stream and the potential benefits from repurposing it.

She also reported on a recent meeting on the subject of PFAS contamination and the risk of contamination to Kennebunk's aquifers, private wells and rivers and

recommended that everyone keep an eye out for recommendations vis a vis water testing.

There was no update on the EV Charging Station, but there was further discussion on objections from the neighbors on School Street and what might be done to assuage their concerns. (NB Later in February, the Town did receive the grant subsidizing the charger station at Washington Hose.)

Patti noted that the Kennebunk Free Library has display cases available that the LV Committee might use to communicate with residents about some of the Committee's initiatives.

7. Sharon Staz and Tom Rist from the Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee gave an update on the streetlight upgrade (to LEDs) project. They reported that all of Lower Village's lights would be included in the town wide project. Two demonstration lights (one "warmer" than the other) will be placed on poles between Coopers Corner and Christensen Lane in the near future. Both committees are eager for any feedback at all from local residents and businesses.
8. Miriam Whitehouse and Betsy gave an update on the design standards project. The Planning Board seems largely satisfied with the proposed language. The next step is to arrange a public forum for feedback – sometime in the next couple of months. A member of the business community noted that he had been approached by other members of the business community who were concerned about the implications of the proposed new standards but who were reluctant to speak up for fear of setting up a "business versus residents" dialogue. Miriam and Betsy assured him that they have been disappointed at the lack of input from residents and businesses and that the intention of the standards is to protect the interests of all (businesses as well as residents) by maintaining the "look and feel" of Lower Village. All agreed that it would be ideal to have an informal discussion with all interested parties as soon as possible. The latest draft proposal for the standards (4.3) is available from the Planning Office or from the LV Committee. (NB Following the meeting an informal discussion was scheduled for February 24 at 9:00 in Room 300 Town Hall and a Public Forum with the Planning Board was scheduled for March 9 at 7:00 PM in Room 300 Town Hall.)
9. Alex Gramling updated the Committee on plans for a "Pie-Centennial" event in McNamera Park on June 28 – pie baking, pie eating, pie throwing - an afternoon gathering of LV neighbors to celebrate the bicentennial. Alex and Laura Dolce are chairing the initiative and eager for volunteers to join in the planning and execution.

Also, in recognition of the bicentennial, Alex is organizing an “If This House Could Talk” project wherein residents and businesses would research and present the history of the buildings they occupy. The histories would be displayed on the buildings as well as compiled as a historical resource. The Brick Store Museum has offered to help with this project. There will be informational events describing the best ways to research respective properties.

10. Selectman Frank Paul reported that the Town Budget process was well underway and noted that the Lower Village Committee budget of \$3,000 had been approved.
11. Laura Dolce from the Chamber was not able to attend but sent word that there would be a job fair on March 9 from 2:00 to 5:00 at St. Martha’s and a retiree job fair on April 7, location TBD.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. Next meeting Monday, March 2, 2020 at Washington Hose.

Attendance:

Betsy Smith – Chair

Miriam Whitehouse – Vice Chair

Pat Foley – Acting Secretary

Alex Gramling

Patti Sass Perry

Nina Spencer

Theresa Willette

Selectman – Frank Paul

Sgt. Andy Belisle

Maureen DiGiovanni – River Tree Arts

Sharon Staz – Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee

Tom Rist – Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee

Tara Scopelliti

Chuck Reid

Tera Khalsa

Paul Humphrey

Eddie Lamberts