

Lower Village Committee Minutes

Town of Kennebunk

Monday, February 4, 2019 - 8 AM
Washington Hose - Port Road - Kennebunk

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chair, Betsy Smith.
2. The minutes for the January meeting were approved.
3. Police report by Sgt. Andy Belisle. There were a few minor crashes during the past month of winter weather. Other than that, no problems to report. Sgt. Belisle said that the Police Department is already receiving event applications for the spring and summer.
May 11th will be the Maine Coast Marathon.
KPD will be getting their new dog shortly.
4. The next meeting of the subcommittee on Design Standards for Lower Village will be on Friday February 8. Miriam Whitehouse, Betsy Smith, Nina Spencer, Rick Taranto and Pat Foley will review material provided by John Stoll and will try to come to an agreement on fundamental questions such as whether standards should apply to the Business District only or a larger area, whether mandatory or advisory, whether applied to residential and commercial properties or commercial only and whether they should apply only to major corridors or all properties.
5. Planters Committee update: Both Herb's and Estabrook's have agreed to give us a discount on pots. The committee would like to pick one color (blue) and have pots of various sizes and shapes, all painted the same color to help designate the Lower Village area to visitors. Nina and Laura will work with Public works regarding the placement of dories and benches on Port Road. Selectman Wayne Berry suggested placing some in the (hopefully) newly striped "No Parking" areas that will be established this spring in accordance with the Committee's recommendations. The hope is that having a physical obstacle will help make drivers aware of the changes.
6. Betsy's report: She has been watching the Budget meetings. The Town recommended an operations budget with roughly a 4.5% increase – with the main drivers being new personnel at Town Hall, KPD and Fire Rescue

as well as a union contract mandated 3% increase. The proposed raise for Town Hall personnel was only 2% but the Budget and Select Boards increased this to 3% to match union personnel and reinstated a \$50,000 pool for discretionary raises and merit increases. The Boards eliminated a recommended increase in the annual stipend paid to the Select Board. The annual volunteer recognition event (\$4,000) was eliminated from the budget as was \$25,000 for the Bicentennial Committee (\$50,000 of Town funds already allocated in prior years). Laura Dolce reported that the Committee has been very successful in raising funds from local businesses and is comfortable with this cut. With these changes, the operations budget looks set to increase by around 5.5%. NB – this was only one phase of the budget process, several more meetings were held to cover capital expenditures, debt service, etc.

7. Wayne Berry's report (and general discussion):

The Lower Village Committee currently has \$2,400 in our account. He and Betsy were "fine" with the elimination of an annual allocation of \$2,000 for 2019-20.

Wayne spoke to Public Works Director Bryan Laverriere and the Town Manager about our concerns about the number and placement of LV trash receptacles. They will await our instructions in the spring.

The Centennial Logo has been adopted and will appear on banners/flags throughout the town. Wayne suggested that we might want to put them on our planters.

He noted that operating costs for the Town have increased significantly which makes this budget season very difficult. There is concern about attracting and keeping our best employees.

There will be no major reconstruction (AKA Master Plan) in Lower Village in 2019-2020. However, we are approved for resurfacing of Port Road and for striping and changes to available parking spaces on for this spring.

There will be an Ordinance sub-committee workshop on February 12th to discuss, among other things, the possibility of making Chase Hill Road one-way.

There has been no further discussion about expanding the Lower Village TIF. We should continue to push for expansion in order to fund some of the master plan proposals. The Selectmen are still hoping to be able to connect all four Town TIFS in the future.

Wayne reported that the Town has a new sidewalk plowing machine.

8. Laura Dolce's report:

There will be two Job Fairs coming up. On March 11th there will be a Job Fair at Town Hall. This is the 5th year the Chamber has offered this and it has been very successful. There will be another Job Fair on April 2nd for Seniors. It will be held at The Center in Lower Village and there will be two sessions. The Chamber will also offer a special training session for servers in April.

The Bicentennial Committee meets regularly and are looking for volunteers. We discussed taking a more active role in the planning process and working to make LV an integral part of the celebration.

9. River Tree report: Ali reported that they are doing well. They have had good enrollment numbers, especially for Dance Classes. They are hoping to link up with the Pre-School program. Ali is in the process of applying for grants and looking for energy efficiency options.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM. Next meeting set for March 4th.

Attendance:

Betsy Smith –Chair

Miriam Whitehouse- February Secretary

Nina Spencer

Theresa Willette
Pat Foley
Laura Dolce

Wayne Berry-Selectman
Sgt. Andy Belisle
Ali Eagleson- River Tree Arts
Chuck Reid
Rebecca Turner
Trish Kenney
Leila Jahncke