

NOTE TO READERS: This is a *draft* of the Kennebunk Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan provides us with a description of the town today in a range of categories, and identifies issues and recommendations for the future. The final version will include an introduction, be professionally formatted and contain multiple photographs. As a town resident, you are encouraged to look at this draft in this early format. **We are now looking for comments and opinions on its contents**, especially the *Issues & Implications* and *Recommendations* sections at the end of each chapter.

The Town will make changes to this draft based on the comments and opinions received, and residents will vote whether or not to accept the final Plan in June 2019.

Chapter H: Historic, Archaeological and Cultural Resources

History of Kennebunk

In the Abenaki language, Kennebunk means "the long cut bank," presumably the long bank behind Kennebunk Beach. "Kennebunk, the only village in the world so named," was featured on a large locally famous sign attached to the Kesslen Shoe Mill (now the Lafayette Center) on Route 1.

Kennebunk was first settled in 1621. A series of falls on the Mousam River provided power for sawmills and gristmills, and the Kennebunk River served as a port of entry and base for building wooden ships. Homes, churches and mercantile uses clustered around these early centers of commerce, and rudimentary early roads were created to allow teams of oxen and horses to haul loads of lumber from the western forest to supply the burgeoning shipbuilding industry.

Kennebunk was part of the town of Wells until 1820, when it incorporated as a separate town. By 1835, four distinct village centers had emerged: Mousam Village, the most populous of the village centers, which bordered "the turnpike" that would later become Route 1; Lower Village, at the mouth of the Kennebunk River and home to many wharves used by coastal shipping vessels; the Landing, center of the nascent shipbuilding trade; and the Plains-Alewive farming community. Small farms filled the areas between the villages, and houses were built along the expanding network of roadways.

In 1842, the Portsmouth, Saco and Portland railroad line came through the western part of Kennebunk, and a depot was built next to the twine mill at Middle Falls, which resulted in the creation of Kennebunk Depot (later renamed West Kennebunk), a small village with eateries, lodging and stores to support the needs of residents, workers and travelers.

Mousam Village continued to grow with the advent of a thriving manufacturing complex along the Mousam River in the Water Street-Brown Street-Route 1 area, producing a variety of products including twine, cotton, thread, doors, sashes and blinds, and shoes;

nearby worker housing began to mix with the grander homes along Summer Street owned by ship merchants. Among the firms doing business there were the Kennebunk Manufacturing Company, the Mousam Manufacturing Company, the Leatheroid Company and the Rogers Fibre Company. Stores and community gathering places opened along Main Street. In the 1870s the Boston & Maine Railroad laid tracks from South Berwick through Kennebunk to Portland, with a new station off Summer Street that delivered tourists to newly built hotels and cottages being developed by the Boston and Kennebunkport Seashore Company. Inter-town travel was further facilitated during the 1899 to 1927 period when Kennebunk was a stop on the Atlantic Railway, a trolley line that connected many York County points.

The Landing area between Lower Village and Downtown played a primary role in the town's 19th century shipbuilding industry and still shows visible remnants of this history, including a shipway and timbers from an old dock. As the size of merchant ships increased in the 1850s and it became too difficult to maneuver them downstream, shipbuilders moved their enterprises to Lower Village. An article in the Eastern Star Newspaper, dated 2 April 1915, lists all of the ships built in Kennebunk Landing from 1800 until 1885. The first ship was built by John Bourne in 1755 on the Kennebunk River at Mitchell's Wharf. The list was created by Seth E. Bryant and a copy of the article can be found at the Brick Store Museum or at its website: www.brickstoremuseum.org.

Lower Village initially served as a coastal shipping point, and later supplanted the Landing for shipbuilding until the era of wooden ships and their construction largely came to an end in 1918. Its next role, as a destination for the growing tourist trade, was cemented in 1883 when a 4.5 mile B&M (Boston and Maine) rail branch line along Kennebunk Beach into Lower Village opened the area to development of hotels, summer homes and supporting mercantile establishments. As automobiles began to dominate the transportation scene and roads were paved, train ridership declined and in 1926 the Lower Village branch line was abandoned. Regardless, the district's role in the development of Maine's coastal tourism industry continued to grow.

The Mousam River was also called the Cape Porpoise River in the 17th century. Since the earliest settlements, the river has been dammed with mills built in three locations that are still owned today by the Kennebunk Light and Power District. All of Kennebunk's early historians - Edward E. Bourne, Daniel Remick, George Gilpatric and William E. Barry - mention the early works along the river at the three falls where the current dams are located.

Historic Assets

In the town-wide survey that preceded this update of the Comprehensive Plan, 38% of respondents listed the "character of housing and neighborhoods" as one of the top three reasons for moving to Kennebunk, just after "small town atmosphere" and "access to beaches and coast."

Coastal Living (www.coastalliving.com) listed the Kennebunks as second out of 20 Best Places to Live on the Coast in 2018, after Santa Cruz, California. It lists the neat row of Ship Captain homes and its “thriving” Lower Village as two of the attractive features drawing people to Kennebunk. This is further evidence that historic properties, which constitute a major part of the Town’s character, are considered a positive attribute of value to visitors and residents alike.

During the 1960s, recognition that historic properties were worthy of protection and preservation resulted in the creation of historic districts in many towns and cities across the country. In Maine, Kennebunk’s Summer Street had the distinction of becoming the state’s first Historic District, established in 1963. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 (Information System ID 74000324). Its boundaries begin 300 feet from the centerline of Portland Road from Barnard’s Tavern at the north to Bourne Street on the south, including properties on Fletcher Street which fall within the 300 foot boundary; all properties on Dane Street, all properties on Elm Street and Green Street; and properties on Summer Street from Portland Road to Durrell’s Bridge Road.

FIG 1 (TO COME)

The Overlay District contains fine examples of early architecture, the most famous of which is the Wedding Cake House, a Federal-style dwelling extensively decorated with scroll saw Gothic trim. The Wedding Cake House has often been listed in several travel sites and periodicals and has a reputation for being the most photographed home in Maine. In 1994, the local Historical Overlay District was expanded to include properties below Durrell’s Bridge Road to Old Port Road on the Kennebunk River side of Summer Street and properties on the north side of Port Road. This area is not included in the National Register.

Also in 1994, the Lower Alewife National Register District became part of the National Register (System ID: 94000178). The district includes a row of four farmsteads on the north side of Emmons Road, east of junction with Route 35 in West Kennebunk consisting of 208 acres. The farmsteads include: 1) Smith Farmstead (built c.1753, added to NR 1982); 2) Walker-Russell Farm (c. 1797); 3) Seth Emmons Farm (1840); and 4) Collins Emmons Farm (c. 1870).

In addition to the two National Register Districts, there are multiple individually-recognized National Historic Register Buildings in Kennebunk, including:

- Bourne Mansion: 8 Bourne St. in Kennebunk, built in 1812.
- James Smith Homestead: 5 Russell Farm Road in Kennebunk, built in 1753, one of the few surviving mid-18th century homes
- William Lord Mansion: 20 Summer St. in Kennebunk, built in 1822.
- John Storer Mansion: 7 Storer St. in Kennebunk, built in 1758 and birthplace of renowned author Kenneth Roberts
- Wallingford Hall, 21 York Street

- Cape Arundel Golf Club, 19 River Road
- Kennebunk High School, 14 Park Street (This building was repurposed and is now managed as the Park Street School Apartments.)

Historic Studies and Surveys completed since 2003 Comprehensive Plan

- In 2012 the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved incorporating design standards into the Town Ordinance based on the Kennebunk Historic Preservation Overlay District Design Guidelines and the Secretary of Interiors Standards. The recommended changes to Article 12 were presented to and approved by the Town voters on the November 2012 ballot.
- In 2015 the Maine Historic Preservation Commission certified a Local Government (CLG) Grant to complete Architectural Survey of National Register District for parts of Summer St. and a rewrite of the National Register District nomination to add addresses (July 2015) conducted by Scott Stevens of Goundroot Preservation Group, LLC.

Archeology

Urban Archaeology is the systematic recovery and examination of material evidence from a city's or town's past. Remnants of human activity -- structures, artifacts, and other remains -- which are often buried under subsequent layers of development, illuminate and augment the information already available through historical documents. Archaeology is often the only source of knowledge about prehistory and the largely undocumented lives of women, children, native, minority, immigrants and the poor.

Because of the irreplaceable nature and historic value of archaeological resources, they are protected by city, state and federal laws. In certain situations, government agencies, individuals or other entities are required by law to identify archaeological resources, assess their significance, and mitigate the potential damage their project may do to these resources.

Historic Archaeological sites in town include:

- Nathaniel Gilpatrick site (c.1788-1824)
- Emerson-Lyman-Bourne site (1776-1805)
- Lyman-Kingsburry site (early 19th century).

There are six known Prehistoric Archaeological sites in town -

- Site 004.07 through 004.10,
- Site 004.15
- Site 005.11
- Site 004.09 is located in the Maine Turnpike right-of-way and has been completely excavated by Maine Historic Preservation Commission
- Sites 004.10 and 004.15 are located on the Kennebunk Plains.

Other possible sites may be located on maps held by the Brick Store Museum.

A number of shipwrecks occurred in Kennebunk over the last few centuries that may, at times, be revealed on Goochs Beach and Mother's Beach after severe storms.

- Merchant - This 139-ton brig was built on the Kennebunk River by shipbuilder Nathaniel Gilpatrick and launched October 13, 1804.
- Colombia - Owned by Joseph Moody, Richard Gilpatrick and Jeremiah Paul, this 160-ton brig launched upriver just a week after the Merchant
- Horace - A 389-ton barque was built in Scarborough in 1827
- Industry - The coasting packet Industry was the first vessel ever built in St. George by Irish shipbuilders. Her captain was David Patterson II.
- Other fishing vessels are known to have been victims of the winter storms, and may temporarily appear on the Kennebunk beaches. Not much is known about these vessels.

More information on the overall Archeological and Shipwreck sites can be found in Table X in the appendices.

Kennebunk Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. The HPC bases its decisions for granting a “Certificate of Appropriateness” on the Kennebunk Historic Preservation Overlay District Design Guidelines, available at www.kennebunkmaine.us and hard copy books are available at the Town Hall, and Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Its most recent (2017) standards and recommendations for historic preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction are available through the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services at www.nps.gov/tps/standards/treatment-guidelines-2017.pdf.

The HPC was founded in 1963 to “promote, encourage, and assist the educational, cultural, economic, general welfare, and amenity of Kennebunk through the preservation and protection of qualifying sites, buildings, and districts...through their maintenance as landmarks in the history of Kennebunk, York County and Coastal North America...” The Kennebunk Historic Preservation Overlay District (KHPOD) is the oldest historic district in the State of Maine.

As a result of establishing the HPC, Kennebunk was granted status as a Certified Local Government (CLG) in February 1990 with the approval of the National Park Service. Kennebunk is one of only ten cities or towns in the State of Maine to be certified as a CLG. This CLG status affords the Town of Kennebunk access to funding in the form of grants and tax abatements for historic properties that require significant repair/maintenance, technical assistance from national and state historic preservation programs/funds, and annual workshops for commission members, planners, elected officials and other preservationists. The HPC has provided local Realtors with a letter to prospective buyers in the historic district advising them of what property ownership involves.

The HPC consists of five members and two alternate members. Members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen based on a demonstrated interest, knowledge or training in fields closely related to historic preservation that include architecture, history, landscape architecture and archeology. Each HPC commissioner or alternate serves without pay and for a term of not less than three years or such longer term as the Selectmen may determine. (Town Ordinance Article 12, Sections 1,2,3, and 4)). The HPC meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Applications Reviewed by HPC for Structural Alterations, Landscaping, and New Structures:

2017	36
2016	42
2015	30
2014	21
2013	31
2012	23

Kennebunk's Historic District is specifically known for its diversity of historic styles and architecture and the HPC strives to respect the organic (natural) quality in its treatment of each individual who applies for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Over the past several years, energy conservation and the emphasis on maintaining a structure's historic appearance continue to be of concern for property owners. Exterior color, windows and period-appropriate landscaping are also reoccurring issues. Many of these issues are addressed in preservation articles and ordinances both in Kennebunk guidelines and in various historic districts throughout the United States. These articles are available for review either through the www.kennebunkmaine.us, Maine Historic Preservation Commission website (www.maine.gov/mhpc), or The National Association of Preservation Commissions website at (www.napcommssion.org).

The Kennebunk HPC has approved the introduction of alternative construction materials and accepted them for projects where original materials could not be duplicated. The new products are visually identical matches to profile, sheen, and texture of the original structural components, with the benefit of high quality and extended life. Many of the new materials and technologies are accepted as a result of consulting with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) and the Department of Interior. Each case involving the use of alternate materials and technologies is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

As a result of a CLG Database Grant awarded in 2012, an HPC Application Records Digital Conversion project was completed in 2013. A total of 790 records were digitized containing the Application #, Map/Lot/Unit#, Property Address, Application Request Description, Owner Name, Applicant Name, Date Filed, HPC Ruling Date, HPC Ruling Status, As Built Date, and Current Land use of the property. These data items continue to be maintained as digital records for new HPC Applications.

In 2017, HPC approved the Kennebunk Landing Historic Sign Project being undertaken by the Brick Store Museum and the residents of the Kennebunk Landing, which involves 59 Historic Plaques being placed on structures initially in the Landing area and then to eventually include all historic structures in Kennebunk. The plaques are being made available to and paid for by historic property owners.

Issues & Implications

- In August 2012, Kennebunk downtown supporters from public and private sectors met with the Maine Downtown Center's (MDC) team to discuss past efforts, current activities and future visions for Kennebunk economic development of its downtown area. The MDC presented a report to the Town in October of that year with recommendations and suggestions to enhance future development. One recommendation was to extend the HPC's design review authority to the entire "Main Street" commercial district. The MDC emphasized the importance of the town's irreplaceable buildings, their character-defining value, and their potential to leverage the benefits of incentives such as the federal and state historic tax credits to restore and preserve them well into the future. They stated that historic preservation is a proven economic development tool that can significantly raise the level of revitalization. While not in the downtown area, the Park Street School Apartments and Bibber's Funeral Home are perfect marriages between a historic property and a local business enterprise. Similar business models can be emulated for future business development involving Town historic structures.
- The Town Resident Survey included a question asking Kennebunk residents if the Town should expand the Historical Preservation Overlay District. The responses indicated that:
 - 38% of survey respondents believe the district should NOT be expanded
 - 34% of survey respondents believe the district should be expanded
 - 26% of survey respondents had no opinion
 - 2% of survey respondents did not respond to the question
- According to Town Zoning Ordinance: Article 12, Section 2 G., whenever an area is proposed for inclusion in the Kennebunk Historic Preservation Overlay District pursuant to the procedures for amending the Kennebunk Zoning Ordinance, the HPC shall notify each property owner within the area of the proposed amendment and, if the Board of Selectman vote to place the proposed amendment on the warrant for Town Meeting, the HPC shall notify each such property owner of the Board's decision within ten days following the decision.
- For several years, Kennebunk had an individual dedicated to researching and preparing Certified Local Government (CLG) grant requests. CLG status enables Kennebunk to apply for federal grant funds through the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to assist with education, planning and capital projects.

Currently, there is no individual assigned to prepare CLG grant requests. In the past, grants have been obtained to help repurpose historic properties such as the Park Street School Apartments, now serving as senior affordable housing. CLG grants have benefited Kennebunk's efforts in revitalization, in conducting surveys/inventories of historic properties/sites, as well as in other projects involving historic interests. More information on CLG grants is available at www.maine.gov/mhpc.

- Guidelines defining responsibilities of owning property within a Historic Overlay District are available online and in hard copy. Historic buildings need proper care and rehabilitation to correct deferred maintenance and/or unsympathetic changes that have occurred over time. For some, there may be financial hardships incurred in maintaining or rehabilitating historic properties. When researching historic guidelines through Federal and State websites, residents will discover that Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the U.S. Department of Interior currently make several grants available to property owners for rehabilitation and preservation of structures within historic districts. These grants, as well as Federal Tax Credits, can be acquired by property owners. Additional information on grants and tax credits can be found at www.maine.gov/mhpc. Some of these appear in this plan's appendices.
- Residents of the Overlay District are required to go before the HPC for a "Certificate of Appropriateness" (COA) before making changes to structures and landscapes. There are occasions when changes to property or landscapes do not receive a COA. When this occurs, the HPC contacts the homeowner and requests information about the changes. If a response is not received, a notice of noncompliance is forwarded to the Town Code Enforcement Officer.

Recommendations

- The Town should ensure that the process for writing Certified Local Government grant requests continues to be available through a dedicated CLG grant writer.
- The Town should initiate a youth outreach program for historic preservation as part of an educational program to raise awareness of the historical attributes of buildings, properties and archeological sites within Kennebunk. A Kennebunk High School student could be assigned to serve an internship on the Historic Preservation Commission. This would be recognized/accepted as the student's Community Service requirement. The duties could involve research of historic properties, inputting application data, and assisting in identifying projects in need of grant funding and writing.
- The Town should develop strategies to help preserve the cultural and historic heritage of the Town in the face of frequent turnover of property ownership, and deterioration of some properties.

- The Town should review existing ordinances to strengthen existing local regulations regarding historic preservation. This could include language that supports the established Kennebunk Historic Overlay District Guidelines and requirement for obtaining a COA.
- The Town should remain flexible in reaching accommodations with new purchasers of homes and current residents within the Overlay District on a case-by-case basis, especially when working with more notable structures that may require exceptional rehabilitation to maintain its historical structure and character.

Cemeteries

Three years of research conducted by the Kennebunk Cemetery Committee was completed in April 2009 to bring the Town of Kennebunk into compliance with state law in regard to veteran's graves. Accomplishments included:

- An inventory of cemeteries of the town, to include veteran's graves.
- An estimate of the person hours needed to clean a cemetery.
- A list of the locations of cemeteries, so proper GIS mapping could be completed by the Code Enforcement and Tax Assessment offices.

As of 2009, the committee found 84 cemeteries in Kennebunk, to include public and private cemeteries and family plots on private property.

- 36 contain one or more veteran graves
- 12 may contain veteran graves, but requires genealogical research
- 14 cemeteries with veterans, in poor to extremely poor condition
- 22 cemeteries with no known veterans, in poor to extremely poor condition

The following cemeteries were listed as partially funded by the Town (towards upkeep of veteran plots):

- Evergreen Cemetery Corporation (Association)
- Home Cemetery
- Hope Cemetery Corporation (Association)
- Pine Grove Cemetery (Association)

Town Cemetery

- Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

The Cemetery Committee made the following recommendations to the Town in 2009 at the conclusion of the three-year project:

- As defined in Maine State Statute Title 30-A Sect 3107, acquire all "Abandoned Cemeteries."

- In accordance with Title 30-A Sect 5723, “Public Works,” raise and appropriate money to:
 - Maintain (to include fences) private cemeteries (abandoned cemeteries) established prior to 1880.
 - Care for graves of veterans and maintain fences around cemeteries in which veterans are buried.
- Continue efforts to comply with Title 13 Sect 1101. Maintenance and repairs; municipality, and with Title 30-A Sect 2901. Decoration of veterans’ graves on Memorial Day (with recommendation that American Flags remain on graves in appropriate flag holders, through the entire year.) (Note: The American Legion now place flags on all veteran graves for Memorial Day in appropriate flag holders, at the five main cemeteries in Kennebunk. The flags do not remain at the graves year round; they are removed after Memorial Day.)

Issues & Implications

- Many of the recommendations from the 2009 study were not implemented. The private gravesites remain in disrepair.
- There is no budget for maintaining private gravesites. While there is a State fine of \$100 per gravesite that is not maintained, the maintenance cost far exceeds the fine (e.g., the cost of replacing crumbling headstones would be \$500 each).
- Relating to the first recommendation of 2009 study to take over the care of private cemetery lots, the Town would not let any town volunteers work on repair of the private sites due to current landowner liability issues. There had been a suggestion that these landowners be offered a tax incentive for the town to take responsibility for the private cemetery lots.
- More recently, the increasing trend towards cremation and scattering ashes is putting financial strain on cemeteries. In Hope Cemetery, 80% choose this method as opposed to burial leading to a decline in revenues, which is threatening their ability to maintain the cemeteries. To avoid having to turn over upkeep responsibilities to the Town, some are establishing innovative partnerships that will both enable them to maintain upkeep responsibilities and to provide public benefits to the Town, such as parks and walking trails.

Recommendations

- The Town should reestablish the Cemetery Committee to continue research of and promote the heritage of the Kennebunk ancestral history.
- The Town should appropriate an annual budget for the care and work done on behalf of Kennebunk cemeteries.

- The Town should encourage creative solutions and partnerships to maintain the cemeteries and enhance their public benefits at no cost to the Town.

Mousam River Dams

Within the Town boundaries there are three historic dams on the Mousam River: Sayward (1653), Dane Perkins (1724), and Twine Mill (1801). These dams have played an important role in the formation, development and evolution of the Town of Kennebunk, especially the downtown business area.

The Main Street Dam is located at the Lower Falls by what is now Route 1. This site was first dammed and a sawmill built a bit further upstream in 1669 by Henry Sayward. In 1759 John Storer and later Col. Joseph Storer also built a dam and large sawmill at the current location. From 1759 to the present there has always been a dam at that location. The next dam site is upstream at the lower end of the Middle Falls, and is still today called the Twine Mill Dam. In 1854, the dam and mill were purchased and improved upon by Robert W. Lord, who established the twine mill. Since that date the current dam has been in use. The third dam site at Mill Street is located at the upper end of the Middle Falls. In 1714, the first dam and sawmill were built there. This site has always been known as the Cat Mill and many different sawmills have been located there since 1714. Above this location is the dam at Great or Old Falls, located along the town border with Sanford, Alfred and Lyman.

In 2016, the owner, Kennebunk Power and Light District, made the decision not to renew the dams' license for producing electricity to the Town. The licensing for the dams expires in 2022.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is currently reviewing a Pre-Application Document for licensing the Lower Mousam Project (FERC No. 14856).

Recommendation

- The Town should continue to follow the progress of the FERC environmental assessment and the status of licensing of the dams to America First Hydro, LLC. The Town Manager should ensure the Kennebunk Selectman and town residents receive ongoing updates on the process. The town should also stay informed of other developments that might arise concerning the future of the dams.

Cultural Assets

The Brick Store Museum

The Brick Store Museum is a privately funded, accredited year-round museum and art gallery. Founded in 1936, and located in four linked historic buildings and an adjacent

small theatre in the Upper Square (upper Main Street along with the Kennebunk Free Library and First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church), it holds over 70,000 items. It is considered to be the Town's historical society for record keeping. The museum also has meeting space for lectures and musical theatre events. Its mission is to discover and maintain a record of the historical heritage of Kennebunk and only to provide educational programs and exhibits designed to promote awareness and understanding of this heritage in order to tell the Kennebunk story, then and now. To this end, the participation in its various programs has been growing rapidly in recent years. Its new History Hopper App (created in partnership with Dietz Associates) is the only app of its kind in the country. It allows iPhone and Android users to tour through the Kennebunks (Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, West Kennebunk) and Arundel to learn about events and people in local history. It can be downloaded to smart phones either through the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

The Museum archives hold extensive primary source materials ranging from diaries and family papers to commercial records, maps and architectural drawings, attracting researchers of all ages. Particularly significant are more than 3,000 historical photographs and vintage postcards, plus indexes for Kennebunk-built ships, local history subjects and genealogical collections. Area newspapers dating back to 1877 exist as bound originals and/or on microfilm.

Issues & Implications

- Parking and internal space are concerns and barriers to growth for the Brick Store Museum.

Recommendations

- The Town should collaborate with the Brick Store Museum to identify additional archaeological sites and consider whether any strategies protecting and preserving known archaeological sites and resources are needed.
- The Town should encourage educational programs and collaboration with other historical and cultural assets in the Town to broaden understanding of our cultural heritage and its impact on the life of Kennebunk today. The Town should look to support these projects through CLG grants offered annually to Maine's ten CLGs.

Kennebunk Free Library

The Kennebunk Free Library (KFL) is a 501c3 not-for-profit institution, supported by Town funds and donations. It is governed by a volunteer policymaking Board of Trustees. Its mission is to serve the diverse cultural, informational, educational, and recreational needs of Kennebunk.

Formally organized in 1881 as the Free Library Association of Kennebunk, there is a long history of personal dedication that culminated in the construction of the current building in 1907. In 1974, the KFL was listed in the National Register of Historic Places

in the State of Maine. In the early 1990's, a major renovation almost doubled the size of the building. In 2007, the KFL celebrated 100 years of growth in virtually every aspect of its operation including greater community participation, a wider variety of resources, more space, and most of all, staying up to date with current new media and technology that drives it.

KFL is currently staffed by eight full-time and six part-time employees and is open 51 hours each week. Besides an extensive collection of books, the library also offers large print books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, audio books, reference material, as well as a "Maine Collection." As a member of the Minerva Consortium, KFL offers free and rapid access to over six million items outside of the KFL facility. KFL programs are offered to children, teens and adults as well as museum passes to a wide variety of other cultural programs ranging from the Portland Art Museum to Maine State Parks. The KFL also serves the homebound, convalescents, and disabled in the "Books on Call" free delivery service.

Currently the library offers patrons ten internet stations, five Wi-Fi hot spots, and text abstracts from leading periodicals and books through the MARVEELI database. For a small fee, KFL offers patrons printing from computers and wireless devices, scanning documents, fax services, photocopying as well as notarizing documents. KFL facilities allow space for public meetings, a gallery for Children's Illustrators, as well as the Speers Gallery, which features rotating art exhibits.

Issues & Implications

- Lack of parking and internal space are challenges for the library.

Recommendations

- See Transportation Chapter for parking recommendations.

River Tree Arts

River Tree Arts, founded in 1982 and located in the Lower Village, is an active membership-based 501(c)(3) arts organization for both adults and children. It is governed by a volunteer board of directors. It offers art, theater, dance, and music classes through after-school programs, summer camps, workshops, Craft Nights, gallery shows, and special events. Its mission is to "bring the joy and benefits of music, theater, and visual arts to everyone in the Kennebunks, regardless of age, income, or prior experience." River Tree Arts believes "the arts are crucial to the process of building community and fosters opportunities for people to come together to create, learn, and celebrate."

River Tree has two staff members as well as the support of 20 regular volunteers and 155 members. The organization serves about 600 students annually, primarily those residing in the Kennebunks. River Tree Arts also rents meeting and event space for events, exhibits, theater, and musical performances.

Issues & Implications

- None identified

DRAFT