

Village Enhancement Committee  
Minutes (DRAFT)  
10 November 2021

Meeting started at 5:36

**Members in Attendance:**

Marie Daigle, Ashley Hopwood Farrar, Judy Lewald, Jan Royall, Kate Spardello

**Members Absent:**

Todd Towle

**Topics/Discussion:**

1. **New Members:**

The VEC welcomes two new members: **Jed Nickerson** and **Jim Parkinson**, who introduce themselves and provide brief personal histories.

2. **Appointment of Officers:**

Ashely Hopwood Farrar, as continuing co-chair, calls for nominations or volunteers for a Chair and a Secretary. The slate of officers after a vote is:

Chair: Marie Daigle  
Co-Chair: Ashley Hopwood Farrar  
Secretary: Kate Spardello

Whether the VEC will appoint a “timekeeper” is tabled until the December meeting.

3. **Riverfront Property:**

The picnic table is still by the river and should be removed. Marie Daigle will coordinate with Leanna Targett, the town administrator, to have the picnic table stored until spring.

A “carry in/carry out” sign still needs to be put on the picnic table.

Per Jan Royall, an engineer must be contracted in order to grade the riverfront property and landscape it according to whatever plans the VEC ultimately get approved for the property, with an eye toward curbing erosion and otherwise being sensitive to the waterfront property.

Community member Sue Davis reports, anecdotally, that people continue to use the picnic table in the light of the extended warm stretch of weather.

4. **Gateway Bathroom:**

The siding is on the bathroom and it is scheduled to be completed this week.

5. **Timekeeper:**

At the last meeting, Todd Towle said he has points to address on the issue of a timekeeper, and so this matter is tabled until the December meeting.

6. **Historical Walking Tour:**

Some signs have not yet been put on houses, and so Jim Parkinson will reach out to Robin Koniesczko, the immediate past chair of the VEC and the person primarily responsible for the walking tour, to find out where the signs are so that we can be sure to follow through with having them placed on the houses identified for the tour.

Kate Spardello suggests that the house on High Street that served as part of the Underground Railroad be added to the tour, and the committee agrees that the owners of the house should be contacted for permission.

Jim Parkinson will also ask Robin Koniesczko about accessing the online part of the walking tour in order to be able to edit the tour as necessary and appropriate.

7. **Sidewalk Light: (Not on Agenda but discussed):**

The “dark sky” hoods still need to be put onto the sidewalk lights.

Per Ashley Hopwood Farrar, selectboard member Polly MacMichael has suggested that the town have a lighting ceremony. The graffiti on Polly MacMichael’s building will likely be removed prior to that time because Pat Mitchell is reportedly scheduled to start demolishing the building as soon as the bathroom at the gateway parking lot is completed.

8. **Discussion of Potential New Projects for VEC:**

Kate Spardello suggests, if compliant with the VEC mission, that the VEC sponsor farmer’s markets and craft fairs in the town throughout the warmer months.

Kate Spardello suggests, if compliant with the VEC mission, that the VEC sponsor local student artists of all kinds (e.g., music, painting, photography) to participate in Kingfield Art Walks. Per Jan Royall, the Mason’s Hall might be a good venue for showcasing such art for this purpose. Jed Nickerson will ask at the school about potential artists to participate.

Ashley Hopwood Farrar suggests placing benches and/or small sitting shelters at various places in town to make it more walker-friendly.

The committee discusses putting signs at the town borders (north, south, east, and west) welcoming people to Kingfield and thanking them for visiting.

9. **Meeting Adjourned**