

Village Enhancement Committee
Minutes (DRAFT)
09 December 2021

Meeting started at 5:36

Members in Attendance:

Marie Daigle, Ashley Hopwood Farrar, Judy Lewald, Jan Royall,
Kate Spardello, Todd Towle, Jed Nickerson, *Melissa Hoisington*

Members Absent:

None

Topics/Discussion:

- I. Minutes from 10 November 2021 read and approved.
- II. Proposed new member **Melissa Hoisington** present. **Jim Parkinson** withdrew name from proposed membership on committee. VEC is still looking for an additional member. **Marie Daigle** believes that the new members (**Melissa Hoisington** and **Jed Nickerson**) will be formally approved by the selectboard by the January 2022 meeting.
- III. The committee votes down the appointment of a “timekeeper” and promises to use discretion and common sense in budgeting time for agenda items, with an eye on keeping meetings limited to one hour absent special circumstances.
- IV. With respect to the Riverside Property, **Jan Royall** reports that Jan Wiegman from Wright Pierce sent a colleague to look at the property for landscaping and engineering purposes, but that no paperwork was produced by Wright Pierce. It is unknown who the colleague is, but the colleague apparently has a camp up this way. Per Jan Wiegman, Maine’s Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over at least a portion of the Riverside Property.
- V. With respect to the house on High Street that is being considered for addition to the historical walking tour, it is unclear whether the house was part of the Underground Railroad, or whether this information is merely a local legend or rumor. If the house was a part of the Underground Railroad, then the owners, John and Patty Ritzo, would like to see an example of a sign that would be placed on the house to designate the house as part of the historical walking tour. **Ashley Hopwood Farrar** will send an example to them.
- VI. With respect to the historical walking tour, and in the light of **Jim Parkinson’s** withdrawal of his name from the proposed new membership on the VEC, the

VEC will have to determine who will head up the historical walking tour, previously established by former VEC president, Robin Konieczko. The committee agreed that the email exchange between Robin Konieczko and Jim Parkinson would be made a part of the meeting minutes, as follows:

Robin Konieczko

Thu, Dec 2,
5:19 PM (11
days ago)

to Jtpsail@aol.com, me, Ashley, Leanna

Mr. Parkinson-

Kate S. asked me to contact you about the Kingfield Historical Walking Tour. The easiest way to access it, without having to type in the long address is to go to the town's web site, kingfieldme.org. Over to the right of the homepage you'll see a place to click that takes you directly to it. Directions in how to use the app is on the first page. Most people read over that there are little dots under the pictures to each stop. Click those dots and you will see videos and old pictures of each stop. There are a total of 15 videos of local people sharing memories.

If the reason for contacting you is to change/add to the program, that is fairly easy. I say that, but I spent hours/days/months using the program. I am more than willing to teach members of the VEC how to use it. If it is during the winter now through mid-April it will have to be via Zoom which enables us to share and view live websites together. It will have to be after Xmas and once I am set up in Florida. If you want to do it in person, we can do it in the spring. The only thing that I am not sure of is how to give the access I have to others, but maybe Emory College can help us with that.

Someone from VEC needs to contact me via email after Xmas and we will set it in motion.
Robin

- VII.** Additionally, the VEC would like to schedule the learning session referenced in the above e-mail for the **February 2022** meeting.
- VIII.** The VEC is not sure on the timing of when the sidewalk lights will be permanently turned on, or when the shades will be added, but **Marie Daigle** will call the subcontractor about the project.
- IX.** Regarding a proposed Farmer's Market/Craft Fair during the summer months, **Ashley Hopwood Farrar** advised that Kate Ray used to attend such markets in small towns elsewhere in the country and does not believe that the economy would make it worthwhile for the farmers to attend. **Todd Towle** raised similar concerns, particularly when the time involved in getting to Kingfield is factored

into the cost to the farmers of attending such a market without any guaranteed minimum sales. **Jed Nickerson** suggested a variance on the theme of a farmer's market by using pre-sales and making it more of a social gathering or "farmer's hour." Some discussion concerning the fact that Deborah at Western Maine Markets already delivers local farm products directly to residents who order them, thereby making a traditional farmer's market unnecessary. **Kate Spardello** suggested that we could try it before deciding it wouldn't work, but, ultimately, the VEC is not interested in sponsoring such events based on the input described above.

- X. Regarding local high school artists of all kinds (musicians, photographers, painters, etc.), **Jed Nickerson** reports that the school is interested, and the project is a "go." The students would like the opportunity to review whatever venue is selected so they know how to negotiate and appoint the art that will be displayed. **Jed Nickerson** believes that there are likely to be at least fifty (50) pieces of art, and the VEC would like to start these sponsorships in the Spring, or as soon as possible after a venue has been secured. Several options include the Mason's Hall, the primary school, the old Methodist Church, or the greenhouse at the Maine Beer Shed. The VEC needs to find out if TIF monies can be spent on renting a venue.
- XI. With respect to the potential VEC project of shelters and benches, **Todd Towle** urges the VEC to wait until phase two of the street widening is complete, and so the issue of benches is tabled.
- XII. With respect to the Welcome to Kingfield signs, **Marie Daigle** spoke with Dan Davis, who had made the signs that exist today, and Dan Davis says he will offer ideas and perhaps materials or lifting a post, but that the lettering should be left to others. **Todd Towle** suggests that members of the VEC consider where the signs should go, paying attention to the snow depth in the winter to avoid the signs being buried during the winter. The VEC decides to ask Sam at SignWorks for an estimate on two new signs, and four hanging signs regarding the home of the Stanley cars. **Marie Daigle** will contact Sam, and also Tom Marcotte will have to approve the signs and their location.
- XIII. **Meeting Adjourned**