



# CITY OF GARDINER

## GARDINER COLLABORATIVE SUMMIT

Gardiner Collaborative Summit Meeting  
January 5, 2010 @ 8:30 AM  
Boys and Girls Club

Present/representing: Ann Davis, Interim City Manager/Gardiner Public Library  
Connie Greenleaf, Multiple boards & associations  
Judy Lloyd, Executive Director Johnson Hall  
Jason Simcock, Economic/Development Director, City of Gardiner  
Ingrid Stanchfield, Boys & Girls Club  
Katherine Kollman, Gardiner PTA  
Dale Staples, Rotary Club

**I) Open**

The meeting was called to order by Jason Simcock.

**II) Review and Approve 12-1-09 Meeting Notes**

Connie Greenleaf moved to approve the December 1, 2009 meeting minutes. Anne Davis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 in favor. 0 opposed. Motion passed.

**III) Roundtable Discussion and Group Updates**

Connie, representing the Gardiner Board of Trade (GBOT), said that they are busy doing a number of things. She said there will be news to come soon about one of the projects.

Connie noted that the Hotel Report has been completed. The GBOT is working with a consultant on the potential for building a hotel in the business park. All of the numbers look good. The next step is to market it and find a developer.

She said that people need a place to stay in Gardiner and she is excited that this is being looked at. Anne agreed that this would be wonderful – there is no place to stay in the Gardiner/Richmond area and it could serve both areas.

Dale gave an overview of the Gardiner Rotary Club's recent activities. She said they have had a lot of donations to their Love Club in December for fuel. Another activity has been the sale of calendars and includes a drawing each month of \$25 as an incentive. In the spring they are planning their City Walk (April), fundraising and working on a project for the Waterfront.

Katherine said that the Gardiner PTA is planning a Read-A-Thon before and during the February school break and will hold a book swap to kick it off.

Ingrid said that they have had a little flux in the number for child care at the Boys and Girls Club this year, but the numbers are still very good. They've lost about 25 children due to parents losing jobs or illness. The Teen Center held a penny-war and raised over \$1,400 for the Salvation Army Toys for Tots program. It was a great event and the teens went to the store and purchased the toys for teens themselves. The Boys and Girls Club has been holding a community dinner each month during child pick-up time. The families can pick up their kids and then stop and have dinner. It has been well attended. They have received a number of donations and the food vendors are very reasonable with their prices. They also have had a mitten tree this winter to receive mitten donations for the kids.

Anne, representing the City, said that that they are working on the budget. With all of the State cuts, they expect a gap (with the school) of about one million dollars. The schools were really hit hard with the cuts.

Anne noted that the Community Calendar is up on the web-site at [www.gardinermaine.com](http://www.gardinermaine.com). She said that anyone having events that they would like posted should give them to either Dot or Jason or both. Once it is being used, Anne will do a press release to let everyone know to look there.

Anne said that the Library is still under construction. They hope to have it completed soon. Anne said that Patsy Adams from the Pittston School is bringing her class to the Library once a month. They have treasure hunts, etc. Her goal is to have 100% library cards for her kids. Anne noted that the Gardiner Library runs the Boys and Girls Club Library for the teens.

Jason spoke about the marketing project survey that was recently put out on the City's web site to get the Community's input. They had 75 responses to the survey and will

be using the input as they update the marketing for Libby Hill and promote the whole Community.

Jason gave an overview of a data center project that he is working on with the GBOT. It is a partnership between the GBOT as the developer and the City. They are working with engineers and others to put a proposal together that is due next week. One of the advantages is that it is the closest to Augusta of all of the possible proposals.

Gardiner Main Street will hold its annual meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at Johnson Hall. Some business owners will make presentations on behalf of their businesses. There will be a social time with refreshments following that.

There will be a ribbon-cutting event on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM to recognize five Gardiner businesses. Gardiner Maine Street is taking the lead on this.

Gardiner Main Street is searching for a new executive director. They have had a lot of interest in the position from a number of qualified people.

The waterfront project will go out to bid soon. The Signage Committee project for the waterfront is going very well and should be wrapped up soon. Judy noted that Earle Shettleworth, Jr. commented that there is no other place in Maine that has historical panels like it with the depth and diversity of information that they have designed for these panels for the waterfront and the surrounding area. The Committee has been collaborating on the panels and with Deb Howard from Gates-Leighton Associates, has been able to put together some wonderful historical information and pictures that span life in Gardiner over many years.

Jason asked if anyone has any ideas for activities at the waterfront or other places within the City, he'd love to hear them. He suggested outdoor movies at the waterfront. He said it would be a good Downtown/Waterfront project.

Jason noted that the Maine Association of Non-Profits has leadership training available and said that there is stimulus money available for this.

Judy said that this is a lull time for Johnson Hall. They had the Christmas play, which went very well and was very well attended. They have their annual meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. They are doing a Teen/Elementary program, hiring teens from area schools to write and direct plays. In addition, they plan to do the Winter Shenanigans during school vacation again this year. In March and April, on Friday nights, they plan to have various groups in – some from out of state to provide entertainment.

Judy said that they have hired a project manager to try to move forward on finding funding for the renovation project. Anne suggested a number of businesses, including the Wal-Mart Foundation have grants available associated with educational projects.

Connie said she would love to see a skate park for the kids. Ingrid said that they have tried it and there were so many problems. It was noted that Hallowell has an indoor one.

Anne noted that the Inauguration of the new Council members is scheduled for January 13, 2010 at City Hall. Their meeting is at 7:00 PM and she expects the inauguration to occur right after that, about 7:30 PM. She also said that they hope to have a new City Manager in place by February 1<sup>st</sup> or soon after.

**IV) Other**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 8:30 AM at City Hall.

**V) Adjourn**