



CITY OF GARDINER

GARDINER COLLABORATIVE SUMMIT

Gardiner Collaborative Summit Meeting

December 1, 2009 @ 8:00 AM

Johnson Hall

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Present/representing: Ann Davis, Interim City Manager/Gardiner Public Library
Connie Greenleaf, Multiple boards & associations
Sarah Fraser, Gardiner Main St
Judy Lloyd, Executive Director Johnson Hall
Jason Simcock, Economic/Development Director, City of Gardiner
Lisa Liberatore, Gardiner Main St, City Councilor elect
Clare Marin, Gardiner Main St, President
Amy Rees, Board of Trade
Ingrid Stanchfield, Boys & Girls Club
Katherine Kollman, Gardiner PTA
Dot Morang, City of Gardiner

I) **Open:** Connie Greenleaf moved to approve the November 4, 2009 meeting minutes. Amy Rees seconded the motion. Motion passed.

II) **Group Updates/Organization Events**

Members shared information on activities planned and ideas for future activities and collaboration.

Jason spoke about the ribbon cutting event that was held in November. He said there are some real success stories in Gardiner. He would also like to do a press release about this Collaborative Summit in the future.

The waterfront signage project that is underway. Jason noted that members of that committee have reviewed samples of the sign panels and have made changes that make them more Gardiner based with pictures and narrative.

The City's Facebook page has about 900 friends so far. Jason encouraged people to get others to sign up.

On December 10th there will be a Marketing Focus Group meeting at 6:30 PM to work with Gardiner Main St (Preserve America Grant) and Libby Hill Business Park on community-wide marketing. He said that they've invested so much in the downtown and Libby Hill Business Park and would like to let people know what's been done. There will be a press release going out soon and they are planning to survey the community. They will hopefully get community involvement from those who live and work in Gardiner and also from people outside of Gardiner as well who are serviced by Gardiner to help market the community.

Jason and Sarah will have a booth at the MEREDA conference in January. He said that there will be realtors, developers, engineers, etc there sharing what is going on in the real estate/development market. He is planning to add photos of the Johnson Hall renovations and ribbon cuttings to his booth. He also noted that he has some wonderful aerial photos of the downtown and business park.

Ingrid Stanchfield told about a recent event that the Boys and Girls Club put on. It was a Dancing with the Staff spoof. She said that there was a great number of kids that participated. Anne asked if it was advertised as she had not heard about it and she offered to put anything like that in the City's weekly e-mail packet.

The land on West Hill Rd that was given by Steve McGee for an athletic field reverted back to him last week as stipulated in the deed because the Boys and Girls Club had not been able to re-develop it within the time frame allotted. She said that the B&G Club is now focusing on the 23,000 SF of space that they currently have and the quality of what they are doing there rather than expanding right now.

Lisa Liberatore said that the Christmas tree lighting will be tonight in the mini park and will include carolers and a song sung by Anne.

Lisa noted that Jill Avery will take over as promotions chair for Gardiner Main St as Lisa will be joining the City Council shortly. She asked if the Community Calendar was up yet. Anne said that the City is planning to use the Recreation Calendar and is working with Virtual Town Hall to get that set up soon.

Clare Marron said that she is the newly elected president of Gardiner Main St and will be working together with Sarah.

Amy Rees is representing the Gardiner Board of Trade. She said they have been participating in a hotel study for the Libby Hill Business Park to determine if it is a viable project. The report shows that it is. The next step is to solicit interested parties

to develop a hotel there. She also mentioned the upcoming (March) annual meeting of the Gardiner Board of Trade.

Jason noted that he is helping the Gardiner Board of Trade to prepare a proposal for a State Data Center with the Board of Trade as the developer. They are working with finance people, an engineer, etc. to put together a bid which is due January 13th. He said that this gives the Board of Trade exposure and as the Board of Trade is the developer, it is not tax exempt so it will also add property tax revenue.

Judy Lloyd said that Johnson Hall had some great shows in November. Their next show is December 12th. It will be a play put on by kids and young artists will create a variety of artwork based on the characters and theme of the play.

She noted that they are moving ahead on their renovation plans for Johnson Hall. They are working with a project manager and are reviewing architectural drawings for the renovations. She also noted that they are “in the black” right now.

Sarah Fraser covered some upcoming Gardiner Main Street events:

December 5th parade theme will be based on “The Night Before Christmas – there arose such a clatter”. They are encouraging all kids to be in it, wear reindeer antlers and make lots of clatter with pots and pans. The parade lineup will begin at 12:15 PM at the Mill Stream Restaurant. Santa will be at Johnson Hall and following the parade.

Gardiner Main Street will hold their Annual Meeting on Jan 20th and will host a Pecha Kucha show where artists and other non-profit groups will have 20 seconds each to show 20 slides. It is a way of networking that has become popular all over the world.

Sarah noted that this year they will be including some displays using LED lights in the mini park. They hope to add to them each year and eventually have them all the way down to the waterfront.

Anne Davis said that she expects to be back at the Library full time by February. The Library is being renovated and hopes it to be completed by the middle of December. The final phase will be the Community Archive Room. She said the Gardiner Waterfront panels direct everyone to the Library for further information, so they want to get that room done. It is a \$160,000 project with most of the money being raised through grants.

Anne noted that there will be a book sale this Saturday from 9:00 – 12:30 in the Kid’s room at the Library. Connie said that all of the church fairs will be this Saturday also.

Jason Simcock is working on a CDBG Downtown Revitalization grant. If we get a grant, the plan is to target underground utilities in the Arcade Parking Lot. The state recommended that we apply both this year and next.

Jason attended a meeting recently that discussed earmark funding. Congresswoman Chellie Pingree is helping communities to get on the earmark list. If anyone is interested, Jason can put you in touch with Chellie's office.

The Turnpike Authority building in West Gardiner has an area set aside for an LCD screen that will serve Gardiner/West Gardiner. Anyone who might have organizational digital photos or want to advertise upcoming events, let Jason know.

At the upcoming Council Meeting, the City Council will review a request by the City to be approved for Certified Local Government status. There are only 9 cities currently in Maine with that status. If the request is approved by the State, it would open up some funding for the City. The City would like to have someone develop a history of each building including the evolution of changes made on each one over the years. This would provide property owners within the Historic District information about their buildings and help them get through the Historic Preservation Commission application process more smoothly.

Lisa Liberatore gave an update on wireless communications in the downtown. She noted that Rich Rambo had taken the lead on this previously for the Council. He had proposed it as a city revenue stream as a utility, not as a free service. The Council didn't move on it. She is looking into a free service.

Jason noted that Redzone Wireless helped set up a system for Augusta. There are different levels of wireless and how they penetrate the buildings depends on the location of transmitters. He suggested working with building owners and maybe locating transmitters in public places like the parks.

Katherine Kollman said that the PTA is participating with the parade on Saturday. They have also tried to do a family dinner event each month. Next week will be a holiday craft. She noted that they are "in the black" as well.

II) Other

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 8:30 AM at the Boys and Girls Club facility on Pray St.

III) Adjourn