

Downtown Committee Meeting Notes

March 28, 2018

Town Office

Attendance: Kris Davidson, Andrew Dorr, Elin Elisofon, Betsy Hopkins, Holly Sault, David Wylie

Via Conference Call: Hooper Brooks,

Call to Order

Review of goals for meeting – To discuss goals and objectives for the Maine Preservation Visit. To discuss goals and objectives for May 1st collaborative meeting.

Action Sheet

Maine Preservation Visit – On Friday, May 4th, thanks to Elin Elisofon's efforts, members of the Maine Preservation Society whose mission is to promote and preserve historic places, buildings, downtowns and neighborhoods, strengthening the cultural and economic vitality of Maine communities will be visiting VH. Sarah and Chris will be the representatives for MPS. Ahead of their visit, the DT committee needs to have a general plan for what they will see, ideas of how their services could best be utilized on VH, and submit to them information about VH and our community that will assist them in being better prepared once they arrive. After discussion, the committee focused on the following main concern to be expressed to the society:

- To reiterate the Value of preserving our unabridged thriving downtown. As an island, it is very unusual for a community to have the working business area that VH is proud to have. We have a working waterfront, active businesses that include retail, lodging, real estate, services, financial, restaurants, and non-profit, residences, harbor frontage, rear pond view and access, and historical buildings.

We are interested in: incentive programs for building preservation, historical classification for buildings, grants or funding sources to aid in preserving

Elin will forward to the society the following: History of VH as written for the Master Plan Introduction by Hooper Brooks, Link to our Comp Plan, Work done by the Sea Level Rise committee as an informational aid in research that has been done for the effect of water in the downtown area, information on the Net Factory and potential plans/goals for the building.

Contact with the VH Historical Society for their input on important structures that need to be discussed or considered for future preservations will be done prior to the visit.

May 1st Collaborative Meeting – The DT Committee is hosting a meeting on May 1st at 5:00 p.m. Town Office. The meeting came about from our previous committee meeting through the discussion of infrastructure concerns for the area from the Ferry Terminal to the Library/Union Church. Concerns include: Sidewalk issues (this encompasses no sidewalks in some areas to sidewalks in great need of repair for safe passage by pedestrians); Aging water mains and pipes; Broadband cabling (evaluating current cables and the need for updated and better equipment/cables to better service the residents and businesses on the island); Fox Island Electric cables and lines. The groups being asked to join the meeting are: Maine Water, Fox Island Electric, Board of Selectmen, Sidewalk Committee, Broadband Committee, Sea Level Rise Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce.

With the DT Committee being charged to be an integral leader in the writing of the Master Plan, it was decided that better understanding of each of these areas of concern, plans for future updates by entities involved, and the relationship of these updates and repairs and how they can work together and how they affect each other was crucial to a successful plan being completed. To that end, the committee opted to sponsor this meeting to bring everyone together for a connected conversation to look at concerns and plans going forward. Our goal for the meeting in addition to starting the conversation is a commitment by the utilities to present at a future meeting their plans for their respective areas regarding updates and plans for VH.

Next meeting – Thursday, April 26th 12:00 p.m. The Work Dock Conference Space

Meeting adjourned – 5:15 p.m.