

The Downtown Committee met on Wed Sept 23rd , 2009 at the Community Center at 7 pm. In attendance were Gordon Graham, Shannan Graham McKenna, Deb Paul, Jim Brown and Diane Arrato Gavrish. We had a productive meeting by focusing on our original charge from the April meeting which was that the **"Town takes leadership role in purchasing and redeveloping property in downtown; for example, acquire property next to the Adams Memorial for parking garage and land next to the library. At the Community Profile event this was the third highest vote-getter proposed by the Downtown discussion group .**

After discussion it was decided that the group will try to attend the larger group meeting scheduled for Tues, Sept 29. We will present our work thus far and see where we should direct ourselves next. It is the committee's hope that there will be some town and business involvement in the near future in order that our work be presented to the Town government. We hope that some action then would be taken on our recommendations.

It was also decided that morning meetings in the future might allow for more participation by current committee members, businesses and town officials and perhaps members of other committees who feel their work might overlap with the Downtown Committee work. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 8th at 7:30 a.m. at the Marion Gerrish Community Center. At this time the current group will meet to discuss what comes of the Sept. 29th meeting and then make plans for the next step.

It should be noted that the Derry Library created a very useful bibliography of all of the materials currently housed in the library on the topic of Economic Development. Background information has also been gathered on both the Main Street project and the Derry Downtown Revitalization project in an effort to have the history of what has already been accomplished in this area.

It is the hope of the group that any recommendations that include funding will be included in the next CIP and the Master Plan.