

Derry Downtown Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 8, 2009

The committee met at the Marion Gerrish Community Center at 7:30 am. In attendance were Gordon Graham, Jona Bostwick, Michael Gendron, George Sioras and Diane Arrato Gavrish.

George gave an overview of the **Downtown Civic Profile** which included between 70 and 80 people about 10 years ago. Items that were discussed and worked on during that time included moving the overhead wires on Broadway, creating new sidewalks and new lighting for downtown, refurbishing the Adams Memorial Building, and work done on Judge Stancick's property, Manning Street, Judge Grinnell's office area, the District Court and the fire station. Approximately \$900,000 was spent on the wires and sidewalk project and about \$1.2 million dollars on the Opera House.

After much discussion about the role of our new Downtown committee, it was decided to resurrect the concept of the larger "downtown committee" and **meet monthly**. It is our hope to get the **business owners** involved, as well as the **Chamber of Commerce** and other interested citizens. Some of the topics that should be discussed include: **parking issues** (the Town Council needs to be involved), visions for the **Veterans Memorial** building, the acquisition of the **Masonic Temple** and other available properties, utilizing the **Economic Development** consultant that has been hired by the Town, including **Town Dept heads** in various discussions when appropriate, like Eric from Rec, Doug from IT, etc., plans for the Palmer Oil properties. The most important "talking point" is that **there needs to be a Civic Profile for Downtown and that the plans for the Downtown Revitalization need to be included in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan**.

It is also recommended that George be notified of any issues and concerns over the downtown area immediately. Do not wait for things that you notice downtown that are the Town's responsibility like leaky roofs, trash, etc.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 22, 2008 at 7:30 pm at Mr. Sioras's office in the Town Hall. This meeting will be only for current committee members to draft a plan for the new and enlarged group which we hope will meet sometime after the Profile update meeting which is scheduled for Dec. 8th. We will contact Michele from UNH, as well, to help facilitate this new plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Arrato Gavrish
Derry Public Library