

**VILLAGE REVIEW BOARD
FEBRUARY 21, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Emily Swan, Jane Crichton, Betsy Marr, and Brooks Stoddard

STAFF PRESENT: Anna Breinich

A meeting of the Village Review Board was held on Tuesday February 21, 2013 at the Municipal Meeting Facility at Brunswick Station, 16 Station Ave. Chair Emily Swan called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

Historic Preservation Month Event Planning

Emily Swan stated that the National Registry website has not posted a theme yet and noted that in the past the Village Review Board has collaborated with the Pejepscot Historical Society. Emily stated that she met the new Director of the Pejepscot Historical Society, Jennifer Blanchard, who stated that the Pejepscot Historical Society will be holding a community appreciation day and would be happy to tie our event and their appreciation day events together. Jane Crichton and Emily, who are members of the Brunswick Downtown Association Design Committee group and working on Maine Street National Registry, suggested that the theme focus on Maine Street or other National Registered areas within the VRB Zone. Betsy Marr agreed and replied that she was thinking about Brunswick as a destination and what makes Brunswick a destination; the photo contest could be photos of the train station, downtown, the historical neighborhoods, Bowdoin and the Brunswick Topsham Androscoggin Riverwalk. Betsy suggested that they could possibly get a speaker to talk about the plans for the Brunswick Topsham Androscoggin Riverwalk. Emily replied that if they focus on Maine Street for the photo contest it gives the High School students more guidance. Anna Breinich agreed with Emily and replied that this would be an opportunity to focus on what it means to be in a historic district and maybe co-sponsor an event with the Pejepscot Historical Society. Jane gave an update on the Maine Street National Register Nomination and stated that Annie Robinson has begun the application process and stated that the information Annie has gathered to this point is astounding; the committee is very excited. Jane stated that Annie is willing to assist and possibly find a speaker to participate in the historic preservation event. Brooks Stoddard really likes the idea of focusing on Maine Street because it is focusing on something that people tend not to think about which is commercial architecture; Brunswick has a significant amount of high quality commercial architecture which is important culturally and economically from the trains to the falls. Emily replied that if they really want to focus on the proposed National Register area, it is not that big. Emily suggested a walking tour of Maine Street possibly given by Amy Poland. Brooks noted that the Times Record has a complete photographic history of Maine Street in the late 1950's; Anna suggested changing the photo contest to new or old pictures. Emily replied that the Times Record is usually willing to work with them and that she heard they have copies of old postcards that they may be able to collaborate on with them while letting the students focus on their own work. Anna responded that this would allow the students as well as the older residents to become involved. Emily stated that the Historical society was interested in working with them on a tour; they already run tours on Lincoln and Federal Street, the other two National Register Districts in Town. Jane replied that they should focus on just Maine Street. Discussion on location of photo contest display venue; Jane suggested an open store front,

Brooks suggested the train station, Anna suggested the entrance to Frontier Restaurant or possibly the gallery space and Emily suggested possibly Little Dog. Emily stated that what they have so far is a photo contest, walking tour, possible speaker on the history of the buildings and photo series in the Times Record. For the next meeting Emily will email the High School Art Teacher, speak with Claudia Knox about old postcards and speak with Annie Robinson and Jennifer Blanchard about a speaker. Betsy pointed out that they have not always had a great attendance for speakers. Anna said that the tour could be about what merits a historic District and see if there is an interest in voluntary preservation and referenced the Maine Preservation handout that was included in the packet about preservation easements. Emily replied that she is a little weary about holding an event because they have not all been well attended and suggested leaving it loose as something that they could possibly co-sponsor. Brooks suggested reaching out to the owners of the buildings to see if they have old photographs that they would be willing to display; Emily, and Jane agreed that this would be fantastic and Brooks volunteered to draft a letter to the downtown business/building owners. Jane noted that they could feature the photographs on the walking tour. Emily suggested May 11th as a possible date for walking tour.

For the next meeting:

Anna – research old walking tour information booklet.

Jane – to forward along the research that Annie Robinson has compiled to date.

Brooks – draft a letter to Maine Street Downtown businesses/owners referencing old photos

Emily - email the High School Art Teacher, speak with Claudia Knox about old postcards, and speak with Annie Robinson and Jennifer Blanchard about a speaker.

Staff Approvals:

- **97 Maine Street – Exterior duct work similar to what was Pedros.**
- **157 Park Row – Signage for 2 new tenants.**

Minutes

MOTION BY JANE CRICHTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2013 AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY BROOKS STODDARD, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business

- Anna Breinich stated that the Board will be receiving a re-application for the Unitarian Church, who are resubmitting a new proposal along with a request to demolish the Pennell House.
- Chair and Vice Chair
 - **BETSY MARR NOMINATED EMILY SWAN FOR CHAIR. SECONDED BY BROOKS STODDARD, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**
 - Brooks Stoddard nominated Jane Crichton; Jane Crichton passed. **JANE CRICHTON NOMINATED BROOKS STODDARD FOR VICE CHAIR. BETSY MARR SECONDED, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- Village Review Brochure: Anna Breinich suggested postponing working on this until June. Anna suggested connecting this next year to Historic Preservation month and possibly speaking to the realtors at their annual meeting.

- Village Review duty to comment on the National Registry Nomination – Emily Swan asked Anna when the VRB should comment; Anna replied that they may want to comment now about the proposal as is informally and then when the actual application is completed the Board can discuss it at a meeting and submit it in writing. Board members agreed to allow Emily to draft a letter of support.

Adjourned

This meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Attest



Tonya D. Jenusaitis
Recording Secretary