

MINUTES
Phillips Revitalization Steering Committee Meeting
January 26, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Margaret Cosenza, John Stinchfield, Dick Stovall, Nancy Morgan, Dick & Pam Matthews Guests: Elaine Hubbard, Sylvia Lambert, BJ Bangs, David Morgan, Matt Sharp, Scott Schroeder (and son), Saskia Reinholdt

Our last meeting was December 1; the meeting set for Jan. 12 was re-scheduled to tonight due to a winter storm.

Saskia Reinholdt, Phillips resident and owner of Reinholdt Gallery in Kingfield, came to ask for our support of a **Maine Arts Commission grant** she will be writing. The MAC awards two grants of \$50,000. to help create economic development through the arts. The applicant is required to have a sponsor in the cultural field that also is a 501c3 organization, and the Kingfield Pops has agreed to act in this capacity. The grant will encompass the northern Franklin County area, and needs to represent a consortium of elected officials, civic organizations, and businesses. The funds could be used to pay someone to coordinate a cultural plan that might include signs, marketing, a website, a culture guide, public art, etc. Saskia needs letters of support; representatives were present at the meeting from the board of selectmen and town manager, the revitalization committee, and the Opportunity Center. **All agreed to write letters after Saskia e-mails more information and the date the letters are needed.**

The committee invited Scott Schroeder, a seasonal resident of Phillips, to talk with us about getting better **cell phone coverage in the area**. Scott works for Verizon, but made it clear he was not at the meeting in any official capacity, but as someone who owns a camp near Toothaker Pond. He led us in a discussion about what we want: cell phone coverage in the downtown area, coverage to as many residents and roads as possible, enhancement of 911 for emergencies, and the possibility of creating high speed internet access for our town.

Asked where we might locate a tower, Scott mentioned the Scammon Ridge as a possibility, because of its proximity to Rt. 4 and ability to reach the Phillips downtown. Margaret said there aren't any zoning regulations that would affect a tower, and Matt agreed that the wind ordinance regulations wouldn't apply. The town should write a letter of inquiry to companies who might be interested in putting up a cell tower, but should make sure there's widespread approval from the residents first. Everyone at the meeting is strongly in favor of bringing cell phone service to our area.

Addendum: Notes from January 9 Meeting

Jon Edgerton, VP, and Travis Pryor, landscape architect, with Wright-Pierce, who are helping Wilton with a Community Development Block Grant, came to talk with us about our options. We explained that we know there's no money for planning grants this year. They agreed to look into other funding opportunities so that they could help us try for CDBG funding in the future. We learned a lot about the planning process from their visit and felt more optimistic about our possibilities. We look forward to working with them.

Note: At our December meeting, we had talked about re-calling our Visioning and Planning Committees in January to help us move forward in the CDBG planning process. After this meeting, I think we can wait until we hear more from Wright-Pierce, as this would be part of their process.

Nancy Morgan attended the **Franklin County Tourism Meeting** at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in Farmington on Jan. 19. Agenda items included: Workshops (What's There to Do Around Here, Anyway? and Social Media Bootcamp), April Bus Tour, Celtic Festival 2013, Maine Mountain Adventures, Western Maine Arts Summit, and Storytelling Festival. Next meeting will be Feb. 16.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Town Office

All meetings of the Revitalization Committees are open to anyone interested in attending. New members are always welcome. To get on our mailing list, please contact Pam or Dick Matthews at 639-2630.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Matthews, chairperson