

MINUTES
Phillips Revitalization Steering Committee Meeting
December 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Margaret Cosenza, Dick Stovall, Nancy Morgan, Dick & Pam Matthews
(Absent: John Stinchfield) Guest: Elaine Hubbard

Our last meeting was October 6, but no minutes were written up. Pam apologizes.

Welcomed new committee member Nancy Morgan, appointed to replace Nancy O'Toole.

Farmer's Market report given by Dick Stovall. The market operated 20 Saturdays from May 28 to Oct. 29, generating \$9742.62 for the vendors (a total of 23 vendors participated), collecting \$684.30 in fees. Considering this success, the Franklin County EDGe will operate the market again next season under the American Legion Post 64's general liability insurance policy from the Legion building on Depot Street, which also offers storage and electricity. Plans are to open May 19 and run 21 weeks until Oct. 6. Dick plans to expand operations to include an online presence, a buyer's club, a public wireless hot spot, credit/debit transactions, and off-season sales beginning in January.

The meeting with **Deb Neuman, deputy director of the Department of Economic and Community Development**, which took place on Nov. 10, was discussed. No one has heard from her since the meeting, other than an email saying she is looking over her notes and trying to think of a way to help us. We feel we made it very clear to her that we need a person to facilitate our efforts and guide us in our revitalization effort. She had also said she'd check on the money that TDS was given to bring cell phone coverage to rural areas of Maine. Pam will call her to see if she has any news in these areas.

We discussed what we should be doing for our revitalization process. Pam will go through the Comprehensive Plan and **summarize our directives**, although we feel they are very general. Elaine thinks we need to **list our assets**, with input from the public as to what they want in town. Dick M. says we've already done this in our Comprehensive Plan survey and again in our Revitalization meetings in the summer of 2010, culminating in the report from our Visioning Committee.

Elaine says we need a **survey of the commercial spaces** in town. Dick Stovall volunteered to do this, as he's planning to do a "hot spot" survey. The commercial space survey would include businesses (or potential business space) on our "business block" as well as areas abutting our "block" (Main St. to School St. to Dodge Rd. to Seward Ave. to Pleasant St. and back to Main). Dick Matthews is planning to make a list of all of the businesses in the area in anticipation of starting a business association.

Elaine received a call and a letter from Travis Pryor, a **landscape architect with Wright-Pierce**, who might help us with a Community Development Block Grant. This firm is

helping Wilton. We asked Elaine to find out if someone from the company could attend a meeting to give us more information, and if there'd be a charge for this. The firm will be dropping off samples of some downtown plans they've done at the town office.

We decided that we should recall our **Visioning and Planning Committees in January** to come together and help us define a starting point and a mission statement. We lost the head of our Visioning Committee (BJ Bangs), but we can call the committee members. Pam will send out notice to these members.

Committee members Nancy, Dick, and Pam attended the **Franklin County Tourism Meeting** at the Skye Theater in Carthage on Nov. 17. We let them know we're working on revitalization in Phillips. We learned about a Celtic Music Festival being planned for Franklin and Oxford Counties, possibly starting in 2013. Pam's spoken with Phill MacIntyre of Skye Theater about using the Community Center as a music venue.

The next meeting of the FC Tourism Group will be Jan. 19 from 2-4 at the FC Chamber office. Dick Stovall volunteered to attend to represent us.

The **Flagstaff Area Business Association (FABA)** welcomed Margaret, Dick, and Pam to their Nov. 29 meeting in Stratton. We asked questions about starting an association.

We have **need for another member** on our committee. Matt Sharp has backed away, leaving us with an even number of six. Pam will approach some people and ask them to contact Elaine to fill out an application if they're interested.

New business: Dick M. asked whether the members feel we can publish *The Vitalizer* as needed during the winter, as there's less activity to report on during the winter. We decided that publishing once a month from November to March would be fine, but he should let his email list know, along with deadlines for news and publication dates.

Pam and Margaret have been in touch with a representative from **Verizon**, who'd like to meet with us about providing cell coverage here. Pam will invite him to our next meeting, along with the Planning and Zoning Boards, and possibly another phone company.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 12, 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