

**Ad Hoc Harbor Trail Committee March 12, 2014
Minutes**

Attendees:

Louise Ruf-MacLellan, Chair
John Holden, Community Development Director
David Wylie (member)
Virginia Slawson (member)
Gordon Page, Rockland Main Street, Inc.

(Note: HT used as acronym and abbreviation for Harbor Trail)

The minutes of the January 8, 2014 meeting were approved with corrections.

The Chair welcomed Rockland Main Street, Inc. (RMSI) new Executive Director Gordon Page to the meeting.

A reporting of the Committee's funds (previous grants) was provided. Two previous projects funded by grants for the stairs and bench by the Waste Water Treatment Plant have been completed. There is a small balance (\$216) of funds. RMSI has secured new grant funds to support portions of Harbor Trail, signs, and a map. J Holden will follow up with G Page and report back more details at the next meeting.

J Holden provided update on the Thorndike Parking Lot project and some other projects. The City is holding a "Stakeholder" meeting tomorrow, March 13 to review the previous plans and get input from property owners and shop owners along the block. The City will proceed with that input to put together design plans to present to Council. Plan is to do construction this fall. A portion of the "alternate" HT may be included in this work, along the east side of the parking lot.

J Holden noted that he is seeking proposals from design companies for the historic markers ("panels") along HT. He asked that the Committee offer any samples of such markers it likes. J Holden also meeting with property owners to discuss easements where needed along the HT.

V Slawson added that Arts in Rockland is discussing the idea of a "benches" project. The Chair shared an image of a bench (and a series) of benches from Belfast. She noted the Committee had discussed this some time ago. She added that such a project may be contemplated, in part, by City Council as part of its deliberations on displays of public art. A special Council Workshop is being held March 19 as part of that discussion. She pointed out that the process and procedures to select and display public art is separate from another longer term strategy being undertaken by the Community Development Department. J Holden briefly added that the longer-term program is designed together with the arts and artist community to seek civic dialogue and input and the formation of a Cultural Plan and Community and Arts Development Strategy. He will share a summary of an application to the National Endowment of the Arts with the Committee.

D Wiley noted that consistency and standards are important in such displays. He also added that the City should focus and plan on "Arts, Education, Industry, Ocean, and You" acronym AEIOU. V Slawson added that the City should consider encouraging recycling by adding recycling containers at the Thorndike Parking Lot. D Wiley added that there are solar-powered trash compacting receptacles available on the market that reduces maintenance issues.

The next meetings was tentatively scheduled for April 9.

Meeting adjourned.