

Raymond Revitalization Committee (RRC)

Notes from December 14, 2012 Meeting

The Raymond Revitalization Committee was founded in January 2011 in attempt to direct the economic future of Raymond. They focus on bringing members of the community together with business owners to explore different options as well as find creative and entrepreneurial ideas to help drive the development of Raymond's business district and promote the Town of Raymond.

The RRC met on Friday, December 14, 2012 at the A La Mexicana Restaurant on Route 302 in Raymond for its monthly meeting. About 15 people were in attendance, representing town government, town business people, and interested members from the community.

The first agenda item was a presentation from Adam Perron of the Lake Environmental Association (LEA) and Betty Williams of the Raymond Waterways Protection Association (RWPA) to present preliminary information on the Sebago Lake Initiative to help combat invasive plants on Sebago Lake. Currently, the invasive species of variable milfoil is present on Sebago Lake, including in the Jordan River area, where the RRC has been working with the Town and local businesses to install a public dock to allow boaters to access the local businesses more easily.

The Sebago Lake Initiative focuses on reducing and ultimately eliminating the milfoil so that it cannot be further spread on Sebago. Invasive species such as milfoil have been documented to have a negative effect on property values and recreational enjoyment. The proposal centers on creating a three-way partnership between LEA/RWPA as the coordinating groups, volunteer site managers affected by the infestation, and sponsors of the efforts, including local businesses. Adam and Betty urged the RRC to be a partner on the project and create a subcommittee to help the LEA and RWPA in its fundraising efforts.

There will be a Sebago Lake Milfoil Summit to further discuss this idea on January 25, 2013 at 7:00PM at St Joseph's College. RRC Chairman Wayne Holmquist asked any RRC members who were interested to contact Betty Williams directly at lakes@raymondmaine.org or 831-7157.

The second order of business was Wayne's urging of the RRC to help create a Raymond Community Endowment, a concept whereby people would give to this 501c-3 Endowment to help support charitable causes in Raymond. Armed with data about the huge levels of wealth that will soon change hands and the charitable opportunity it presents, Wayne believes now is the time for such an endowment's

creation to capitalize on this opportunity. Those interested in further discussing are urged to contact Wayne directly at wholmqui@maine.rr.com.

The final order of business was discussing the RRC's 2013 goals. The group reviewed some of the work undertaken in 2012, and possible ways to increase future visibility and participation, especially by local businesses. A number of ideas were suggested, including holding evening meetings and greater notification about the RRC meetings, as well as minutes of the meetings being posted on the Town website to help attract more interest.

The RRC meets regularly on the 2nd Friday of each month. at A La Mexicana Restaurant, 1227 Roosevelt Trail, Raymond. The next meeting of the RRC will be held on Friday, January 11, 2013. All those interested are cordially invited and urged to attend!