

**NEWPORT CITY DOWNTOWN  
WORKING GROUP MEETING  
MINUTES JANUARY 3, 2007**

		<i>Next Steps</i>
	<p><u>Attendance:</u> Elwood Guyette/Newport City Mayor, Tim Hamblett/Pick &amp; Shovel, Olivia Belean/Gilman Housing Trust, Heather Sevigny/North Country Chamber of Commerce, John Ward/Newport City Manager, Rick Woodward/Mynwood Properties; Patricia Sears/Downtown Coordinator</p> <p><u>New Member:</u> Jim McKimm/Memphremagog Arts Cooperative</p> <p><u>Guests:</u> Alison Meaders/NVDA, Bob Kelley/Newport City Zoning Administrator</p> <p><u>Sadly missed:</u> Sherry Norris/The Landing Clothing Store, Tina Norton/Chittenden Bank</p>	
<b>Coordinator's Report</b>	<p>Coordinator reported on outreach, media and resource development activities. Trish has interviewed with WIKE-AM, will interview with NEK-TV next week, will be contributing a regular column to the <i>Newport Daily Express</i>, will interview with <i>The Chronicle</i> and the <i>Caledonian Record</i> this week.</p> <p>Trish reported the list of people she's met with to-date as well as others pending confirmation of meeting; she also reported on the opportunity of applying for a RBEG grant from USDA Rural Development.</p>	<p><i>Trish will send an article to Heather for the Chamber of Commerce newsletter.</i></p> <p><i>Trish will report back on progress with RBEG application and prepare to ask the City Council for approval to apply as Newport City for the Downtown renaissance project.</i></p>
<b>Working Group members outreach and recruitment</b>	<p>Jim McKimm/Memphremagog Arts Collaborative was invited to join the Working Group; he accepted and attended this meeting.</p> <p>Members of the Working Group nominated the following people for Working Group members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Debi/The Linen Closet</li> <li>○ Sharon Hamblett</li> <li>○ Ed Stevens</li> <li>○ Rob Naramore</li> <li>○ Bill Lapierre</li> <li>○ Michelle Richardi/Lagos</li> <li>○ Claude Delabre/Radio Shack</li> <li>○ Jamie Roy</li> <li>○ Amy Robinson/NEKCA Microbusiness</li> </ul>	<p><i>Working Group members and the Coordinator will contact the people on this list to formally ask them to join the group and attend meetings.</i></p>
<b>Downtown Special Event</b>	<p>The first of a series of Newport City Downtown Community Summits is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at the Gateway Center. The event will start at 6pm and will be catered. Childcare will be provided.</p> <p>Trish will be working with Bill McMaster, who will moderate the community forum, on the design of the event.</p>	<p><i>Trish &amp; Bill McMaster will draft an outline of the forum.</i></p> <p><i>Trish will ask certain businesses for support for forum to help pay for catering and childcare that will be provided on site, at the Gateway.</i></p>

The next meeting will be January 18th at 1pm in the City Council Room.