



**MAKING HEADWAY**  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Livermore, Livermore Falls and Jay, Maine

Phase 3: Community Celebration  
December 15, 2015



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A Community Celebration was held for 3 towns that participated in the community engagement process, Making Headway In Your Community (MHYC) at the Town Office in Livermore Falls on December 3, 2015. Prior to the Community Celebration a Movie Night was held in the Fall of 2014 where community members from Jay, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Canton and Wilton came together to watch "Reviving the Mill". Following that a Community Conversation event was held in May 2015 with the towns of Livermore, Livermore Falls and Jay (these towns decided to continue with the MHYC process). At that time 3 community projects were identified that the community members felt passionate about and wanted to complete. The three projects included: Replacing Part of the Roof at the Livermore Community Center, Creating Signage for the Community Forest owned and managed by the Androscoggin Land Trust and Updating and reprinting the Androscoggin Greenway Map of 4 Towns.



Community Celebration December 3, 2015

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Celebration was to celebrate the 3 projects and gather feedback from the community and the stakeholders about the MHYC process. The Celebration was attended by 18 people from the communities of Jay, Livermore and Livermore Falls and included community members, leaders and advocates, municipal employees, land trust staff, rural planning organization and the press. The event was held at the Livermore Town Office with a Stakeholders Meeting from 4:00-5:30pm and a public celebration and project presentations from 5:30-7:00pm.

## STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Prior to the public celebration a Stakeholders Meeting was held to discuss lessons learned through this pilot project. This meeting was attended by Mary Howes (community member, Land Trust volunteer), Deb Charest (Conservation Manager Land Trust, Alison Hagerstorm (Greater Franklin Regional Development Corp), Lorain Francis (Maine Downtown Center), Nancy Smith (GrowSmart Maine), Anne Ball (Consultant to MHYC), Shiloh LaFreniere (Town Mgr Jay), Kristal Flagg (Town Mgr Livermore Falls) The group gathered information about the MHYC process that will be helpful to GrowSmart Maine as they begin the MHYC process in 3 new communities in Downeast Maine in 2016. The stakeholders discussed the process, roles, responsibilities, communication, successes and challenges.



Stakeholders Meeting December 3, 2015

The information gathered at the Stakeholders Meeting is summarized with bullets below.

- Roles-Town Managers did not expect to have a leadership role, helps to have a committee or individuals that can take leadership role. Need to have a lead person assigned to each project when they are selected
- Timeline- longer than expected, meeting dates should be planned in advance and communicated, attendees liked the idea of having movie night and 2-4 weeks later have community conversation

- What worked well?- having a variety of organization in addition to the municipality involved, projects are good
- What remains after the MHYC process?- doors were opened, new relationships, see GrowSmart as a partner and resource, process helped people take pride in their community.

### PUBLIC CELEBRATION

At the larger community meeting presentations were made by each of the three community projects. The presentations were done with power point and included photographs, maps and budgets where appropriate. The meeting also included discussions for the communities of next steps and feedback on the process. The community meeting is summarized below with bullets.

- Community House Roof Project- Tim Cox Presentation: struggled with finding help, Ron Erickson from Jay and Tim did all the work (118 hours). Staging, air gun and kiosk donated. The Community House is booked through January with gun sale, plant sale, bake sale, craft sale and wedding. The Maine Country Music Association might use the building. Awareness of the building for functions has increased as a result of the work that happened. The person who runs the gun sale has volunteered to paint the building next spring. The donated kiosk was an unplanned bonus. This was an early idea for a project, but was replaced by the immediate needs to repair the roof. Through Tim's discussion of the Making Headway process with other community members, another resident donated the kiosk; thus two projects were successfully completed!



Tim Cox, Livermore Community House Presentation

- Androscoggin Greenway Map Project- Shiloh LaFreniere (Town Manager, Jay) and Kristal Flagg (Town Manager, Livermore Falls) Presentation: struggling to get the Towns of Livermore and Canton to make edits on the map and struggling to piece the financing together to cover sufficient printing. The project has had an overreliance on a few key people that don't have time to get the project done. It was suggested that the project group could ask the printer for an in-kind donation, attempt to connect with the Chamber of Commerce and print a smaller quantity. GrowSmart Maine will continue to monitor and assist as needed, and still holds the grant and local matching funds to cover costs of the update and perhaps some towards printing.



Kristal Flagg and Shiloh LaFreniere, Greenway Map Project Presentation

- Community Forest Signage Project- Androscoggin Land Trust, Deb Charest Presentation: Mike Auger, the previous director of the Land Trust completed most of the work. The project included design, construction and installation of 2 Trailhead signs. There has been some increased awareness of the Community Forest as a result of the project. There was a full workday at the French Falls in combination with the newly formed Rec Committee in Jay. This is a new committee for the Town of Jay and new relationship for the Land Trust.
- Additional Comments: The community of Livermore is thinking about connectivity and walkability and creating walking access from the Community House to the field. Finding volunteers was hard. Volunteers are willing to donate stuff, but not time. (Perhaps communities in the future need volunteer recruitment tools) Getting

the word out is hard. When people came to MHYC events they had no idea what to expect. People could use more information ahead of time. The strategy of having events rather than meetings was effective.

## CONCLUSION

After the program there was an email from one of the project leads, Tim Cox.

“Thanks for your help and support for the center. It means a lot to us. We hope that the center becomes a focal point for the community and area and is used by many people in the area. That was your goal to maintain and get people involved.

Our wedding was fun and we had a lot of friends there, no reception just a traditional service and a gathering for a bit after, so it was real nice for us. If I can assist you in the future with other projects give me a shout and I'll see if I can. I will keep you posted for future happenings (improvements) at the center. Again Thank you Tim”

This quote sums up what MHYC is all about. In addition the Livermore Falls Advertiser published an article on the process and the Community Celebration. The pilot MHYC project was considered a success and there were many takeaways that will be used to enhance the process in the 2016 communities.

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Attached to this report are

- Celebration Night Flyer
- Community Celebration power point presentation
- “Closing Celebration”, Pam Harnden, Livermore Falls Advertiser, December 4, 2015

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