

## **NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET**

1. Cheryl Sullivan
2. Susan and Jim Murphy (Green Space) smurphy@bates.edu
3. Mark Stelmack
4. Paula Foley-Stelmack
5. Susan Morris
6. Chip Newell
7. Suzy and Dan DesPres (Landscaping) 747-4388
8. Bill Campbell
9. Rick Huleatt rhuleatt@gmail.com (India St. Neighborhood Assoc.)
10. Jeff Jackson jeffjax@gmail.com (Bury utility lines)
11. Peter Gordon gordonpd@live.com (Green along Idia & Fore Street Corner & Bury Power Lines)
12. Bethany.field@gmail.com

## **203 FORE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

**November 15, 2017**

### **Minutes**

Attendees for Property Owner / Applicant: Michelle Steffins, Alex Bates, Dustin Kurle and Rick Mielbye

Mr. Mielbye described the proposed project and explained that it would be a sister hotel to the adjacent Hampton Inn under the same ownership. He stated that the existing Hilton is very successful and he is expecting the new hotel to also be successful. He stated that they understand the market because of their ownership of the existing Hilton and they also own the Residence Inn in South Portland.

Dustin Kurle, the project architect, described the building design, landscaping and parking.

They then opened the floor to public comment and questions.

A member of the public asked about parking, concerned that overflow parking would be on the street. Mr. Mielbye noted that they have more spaces than required by code and would arrange with an off-site garage for overflow if needed.

A member of the public asked if the greenspace will remain.

One member of the public commented that she believed the design to be too modern and an eyesore.

A member of the public who lives across the street from the project noted that they do not want to lose the open space or the 2 parking spaces on Middle Street.

Two members of the public in attendance live in a condo on top of the existing Hilton. They inquired about their parking space and were assured that it would remain in place and would not be covered. They also asked how parking would be accommodated. Mr. Mielbye responded that all parking would be valet and that they will have an agreement with an off-site garage for overflow if necessary. He noted that it is in their best interest to have adequate parking for their customers.

There was a question regarding the distance between the two hotels.

There was a general discussion regarding the green space on Middle Street and a request for pedestrian amenities – benches, etc. There was also a request for add more landscaping to the India Street side.

A member of the public noted that the India Street Neighborhood Association has a green space plan.

A member of the public asked whether the project could include removing telephone poles and above ground utilities.

Mr. Mielbye responded that they will revise the plan to add as much greenspace as the planning board will allow and that he will look into the cost of moving utilities underground.

A member of the public asked about bicycles.

A member of the public asked about restaurant. Mr. Mielbye noted that it would be an amenity for guests and open to public.

Some neighbors were supportive with rooftop bar, others were not and were concerned about noise. Mr. Mielbye noted that as hotel owners, they are also concerned about noise levels to ensure good customer experience at the hotel.

A member of the public asked about the construction schedule? Mr. Mielbye noted that they are not that far yet.