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August 2022

Greetings from your Designated Downtown Organization!

We truly feel fortunate in coming out of the global pandemic and getting back to a more “normal” time. We have continued to move forward on certain projects while also completing several others in the Designated Downtown. Overall, SOM has accomplished many fantastic things this past year including:

****Improved Crosswalk Sign Project.*** Thanks to the RiseVT Amplify Grant that SOM was awarded in 2021 along with a match provided by the TOS, the crosswalk near the Comtu Cascade Park at the corner of Valley and Main Streets now has greater visibility to vehicular traffic. With an additional Amplify Grant that SOM was awarded, the TOS and the Edgar May Health and Recreation Facility will also have these solar-powered, pedestrian-activated, wig-wag flashing crosswalk signs on Bridge Street by the end of Summer 2022.

****The Woolson Block Building Commercial Spaces.*** Shear Beauty Salon celebrated their one-year anniversary at 33 Main Street this summer and Uplift Acrobatics has signed a lease after having a “pop up” in 37 Main Street during the spring months. These pop ups (temporary/short-term with no signed lease agreement) enable potential businesses to determine if the Woolson Block is a good fit for their business. We also had several non-profits have successful fundraising events in the vacant spaces including the Springfield Garden Club, the VAULT, Springfield Rotary Club, and the Springfield Art Gym. We have been and are continuing to work diligently to fill the remaining two commercial spaces.

****Light the Falls.*** We are currently working with property owners, HB Energy, and the TOS to light our two southernmost waterfalls. We are hopeful to have them lit by summertime 2023!

****Light the Alleyways.*** Thanks to Sue Dowdell and the Springfield Town Library there are now solar-powered twinkle lights in-between the Library and the Furman’s Building. We have also installed electric lights in-between the Huber and Bank Block Buildings. They really do brighten these alleyways in the evening times!

****Cosmos Light the Poles.*** This fundraising project was done to congratulate the SHS Class of 2022 as well as welcome all our Cosmos Alumni back to town after two years of not having any alumni activities. Raised funds paid for the electric green and white rope lights which HB Energy put up and took down in June. Any remaining funds will pay for any maintenance that the GFI outlets on the lamp posts may require.

****Adna Brown Stagecoach Mural Install.*** This 16-panel Jamie Townsend mural has found a new home! Thanks to HB Energy Solutions, this massive undertaking was completed in two days on the north wall of the Ellis Block Building in the Springfield CoOp parking lot area. One can now see this modern rendition of a once historic Springfield hotel almost exactly where it was originally located.

****Downtown Holiday Program.*** We had over 100 children participate in the 2021 Downtown Holiday Program! It was wonderful to be able to

have this event again. Thanks to the Black River Innovation Campus (BRIC) and Will and Victoria Hurd, we were able to record "Stories with Santa" again which SAPA TV aired nightly throughout December. In addition to this televised event, SOM worked with HB Energy to have "Letters to Santa". Children could drop off letters to Santa at the mail slot in Santa's House near the holiday tree. If a child had a return address, Santa wrote back to the child.

***Annual Beautification.** SOM continues to work on Springfield's downtown beautification through the annual upkeep of mulching and weeding of several areas along Main Street. We also work with property owners to power wash their buildings' facades and help them clean their storefront windows. This year, we needed to freshen up the paint on several waste receptacles and the lamppost bases. We are appreciative of the Springfield Garden Club's flower boxes and their annual donation for the real balsam holiday wreaths. SOM is truly thankful for all who volunteer to water and weed throughout the entire spring, summer, and fall; it is a tremendous amount of work.

***The Wayfinding Signage Project.** This is a multiphase project in which we had hoped that Phase I would be completed in 2022. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, this project, with the help of the Town (TOS) and the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC), has a projected 2023 timeline for completion.

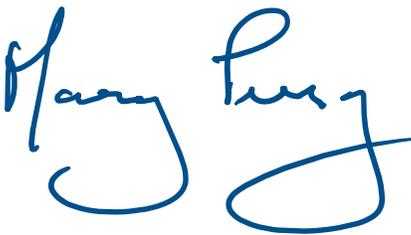
***The Alan R. Woodbury Memorial Courtyard.** We are in the final steps of dedicating the bricked courtyard in front of the Ellis, Lincoln, and McKinley Block Buildings to Alan in October. Next year, thanks to the Downtown Transportation Fund and Standing Stone, LLC, the courtyard's wood edging will be replaced with slate. We will also be working with Skyline Landscaping to install four trees in the courtyard.

***Food trucks in the park.** SOM, along with the TOS, have begun to schedule a food vendor two days/week in the Comtu Cascade Park. We understand that this year will probably be a little slow but we are hopeful to have a full schedule May-October 2023.

***Concerts at the Comtu.** This is the second year that SOM will provide attendees with a family-friendly and free concert series in the Comtu Cascade Park on Fridays in August. We received significant funding from Bob and Lisa Rivers which enable us to have four quality bands and appropriate sound provided for the concerts. Funding from the Springfield Housing Authority will provide intermission entertainment by Dance Factory students for the first three concerts. During our final concert intermission, we will have the Rotary Club's "Butterfly Release", which is the end result of their summer-long fundraiser. Funding from SRDC will provide day-of concert necessities. Thank you to all who contributed financially and who volunteered their time to make this event happen!

On behalf of Springfield On The Move, we thank you for your continued support, both financially and through your volunteer hours--without these we would not be able to move forward with the betterment of downtown Springfield.

With Gratitude,



Mary Perry, President



Jessica Martin, Executive Director