



SALTAIRE NEWS

Robert L. Cox III, Mayor

July, 2010

This is my first Village wide communication since the election and so I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the residents of Saltaire for electing me to the office of Mayor. It is indeed a great honor, but it is also a responsibility that I take very seriously. You can be assured that my fellow Board members and I will work tirelessly to reward your trust as we face the issues of the next decade. During my tenure as a Trustee I found that the Board worked best when there was open communication between the Board and the residents, particularly when the residents were actively engaged in the decision making process. I intend to make that philosophy one of the fundamental principles of my administration.

To that end, I ask for your participation in the planning process to develop a comprehensive plan for the Village "downtown". This process began last year and sprung from the Board's close monitoring of the potential sale of the Saltaire Market with an eye toward the potential long-term impact such a sale might have on the future of the Village. The Board came to the conclusion that it could not properly evaluate the current situation with the Saltaire Market as a stand-alone property, but rather that it was necessary to conduct that evaluation in the context of the larger, more comprehensive examination of this unique non-residential zone of the Village.

The downtown area is comprised of a mix of publicly and privately owned properties and buildings in varying states of repair that house the great majority of services provided to Saltaire residents. The Village downtown has evolved over time into the current mix of infrastructure, public areas, buildings and services without benefit of a blueprint that optimizes that mix for the greatest benefit to Saltaire residents. That unplanned, evolutionary process has served us adequately thus far, but it is the right time to take a step back and consider whether the downtown is optimally configured to serve the long-term needs of the Village. The planning process is an all-encompassing endeavor that begins with a needs and goals assessment and culminates with a concept plan that best meets those goals over the long term. The Board hired the consulting firm of Saccardi and Schiff to assist with this process, and as a result of initial consultations they have delivered a draft plan for review. The draft plan is posted on the Village website, the direct link for which is <http://www.saltaire.org/downtown.pdf>. A copy of the plan can also be picked up at the Village office.

The most relevant aspect of the planning process, however, comes with the refinement of the draft plan as a result of input from the public. The draft plan provides a framework for further discussion and revision by those who use the downtown area and who will be impacted by the plan. Your participation will help prioritize the needs and goals for the downtown and advance the aspects of the plan that you feel are most desirable and beneficial to the community. To further facilitate this process, I have engaged the Planning Commission to work with the Board on the refinement of the plan.

The first public meeting on the draft plan will be held on Saturday July 17 at 11:00 am at the Saltaire Yacht Club. I urge your participation at that public forum. It is the key component to the success of the planning process. If you cannot attend the meeting, you can still participate by sending your comments to the Village office. They will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and the consulting firm for consideration in the revised plan. Remember, this is your Village, this is your opportunity to help plan for its future. Please participate in any way that you can.

I realize that much of the public discussion to date has been about the status of the Saltaire Market, but that discussion is most relevant when discussed within the framework of a well developed, comprehensive plan. Thank you in advance for your support for and participation in this process to develop that plan.

Mayor Robert L. Cox III

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In Case of Emergency While in Saltaire, Call 911
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