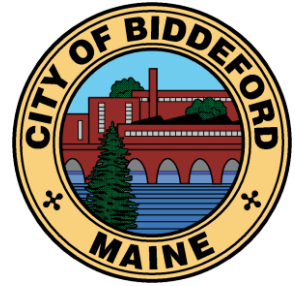


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LACONIA PLAZA GRAND OPENING

The City of Biddeford Celebrates a New Landmark with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

BIDDEFORD, ME May 11, 2017 – Elected officials of State of Maine, City of Biddeford officials & staff, City of Saco officials & staff, Doug Sanford and Scott Joslin of Pepperell Mill Campus along with private partners and supporters gathered to celebrate the Grand Opening of Laconia Plaza.

Laconia Plaza is the latest connection in Biddeford and Saco’s RiverWalk. The Plaza is positioned uniquely to take advantage of the magnificent and dramatic views of the falls. It is an excellent example in which public-private partnerships can create beautiful, public, open spaces.

This project is the work of several businesses, organizations, city staff and countless support individuals. In his opening speech, Mayor Alan Casavant thanked and recognized a number of people associated with the project:

Frank Gardiner, Jessica Dominguez, and the staff at the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Boston for providing a Brownfields Cleanup Grant, which was instrumental in making this project possible.

Nick Hodgkins of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for his assistance with state Brownfields and the Voluntary Response Action Plan.

Rip Patten and the staff at Credere Associates, LLC of Westbrook, for assistance obtaining the Brownfields Grant, project design coordination, and project management.

Stephanie Hubbard and the staff at Wright-Pierce Engineers of Topsham for plaza design and construction support.

Terry Buck and the staff at T-Buck Construction of Turner, for construction of this beautiful plaza.

Cindy Rothweiler of C2 Graphics, right here in Building 15 of the Pepperell Mill Campus for production the way-finding signs.

Special thanks went out to Doug Sanford and Scott Joslin of Pepperell Mill Campus for being part of the City's vision for a vibrant and walkable downtown and for generously providing easements that allow the public to enjoy the plaza.

Mayor Alan Casavant did the honor of cutting the ribbon. Refreshments were provided and the public mingled in the courtyard of the plaza absorbing the breath taking views and sounds of the Saco falls.

"It's remarkable how public and private came together to make this thing happened. We even did some work in the state legislature. This will be a destination and that what's most exciting about it," said Martin Grohman, Maine State Representative.

"I am just astonished and so excited to see this asset here in Biddeford having been born and brought up here to be able to see something like this happen and the success when we join forces. It takes vision, it takes determination, it takes money, and it takes grit and it shows that Biddeford is on the upswing," stated Bonnie Pothier, Regional Representative US Senator Angus King, Jr's office.

Stephen Beaudette, former Maine State Representative said, "This type of development at Pepperell campus and what's happening in Saco across the way, is tremendous opportunity for people who are unfamiliar with the communities to see this potential and relocate to this area.

"The RiverWalk Steering Committee has been working on this for 5 years. So it's really exciting to be able to access the space when it was once inaccessible," said, Bill Durkin, Chair of the Downtown Development Commission.

"We are just at the beginning of opportunities in the Biddeford Saco communities. I am pleased to be a part of it and excited about the future for those that grew up in Biddeford all their lives to those who are just moving here, stated Doug Sanford, Owner/Developer Pepperell Mill Campus.

Forty-five plus tons of granite which was used for the site was all repurposed from the Biddeford Public Works stockpile. It is possible that some of these blocks served as foundations and retaining walls for some of Biddeford's oldest structures. Not only did the use of this granite save money, it also ties the design to the river and shows that we can honor the past while creating sustainable infrastructure for the enjoyment of future generations.

"So many things are happening in Biddeford, it's a paradigm shift and it's symbolic of the new pride of this City. And, it's really, really cool, stated Mayor Casavant."

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