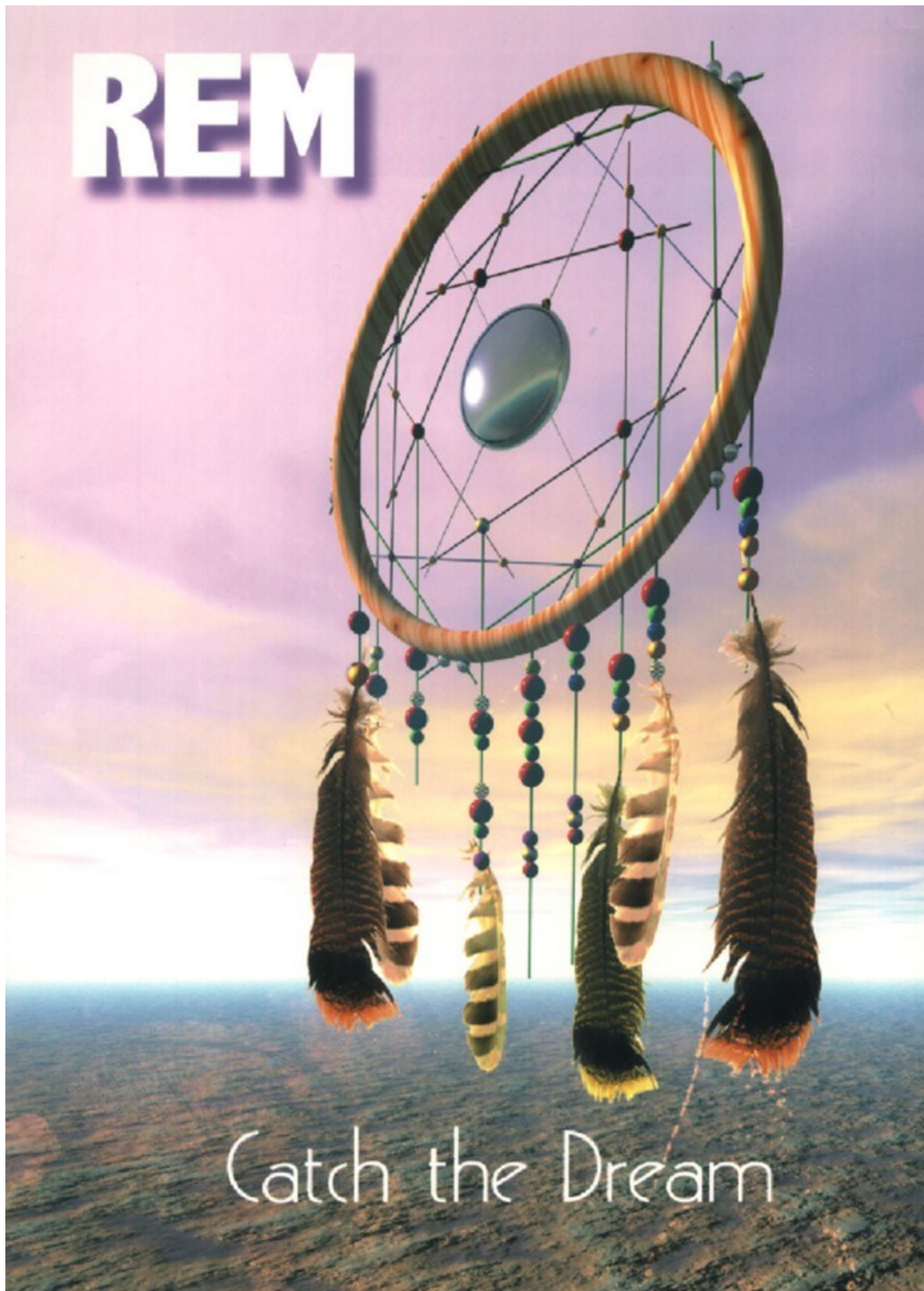


In 1996 the wonderful people in this picture served our community by working for three grueling days to write a vision for our community and developed objectives to make that vision work and even met in teams three days later to start that vision moving. One of those teams wanted to start trails...today known as Kennebec Messalonskee Trails—50 miles of trails. They are but one of many accomplishments born out of that Mid-Maine Strategic Vision.

Catch the Dream



That energy lives on and is here for you to help move forward. As REM's Dream Catcher I have worked with hundreds of dreamers helping to create those things so important to us as humans. The things we care about *most* are most often shared by most of us. REM invites you to be part of building our beautiful community's future.



One day Don Freeman, a REMer who joined us in 1995, came into REM's office and said..."You need to put this on everything REM does. I've never seen anything so well done."

Both Don and the graphics artist, Kico Passalacqua, who created this piece, have passed. But REM goes on and hundreds of our community's dreams are now part of our everyday lives. And REM is here to be a place that not only chronicles those dreams but works to incubate dreams born years ago, add to the nest those being born as we speak, and help inspire community to work to move shared dreams to realities.

Our government folk are just people like you and me crazy enough to say, "I'd like to represent you" and then work like dogs to do impossible things while people throw rotten tomatoes.

In our community, that is changing. People are beginning to welcome and celebrate our diversity instead of being afraid of our differences. You are being invited to the table to create the future we will live in. Be there...or hush.



REM Celebrates our differences. We can each only be one person, leading one life, learning what it teaches us and developing skills according to our individual capacities. When we collaborate and share openly, we have so much more knowledge and experiences to draw upon.

REM uses symbols we can all relate to to talk about our principles and values.

The **goose** is REM's mascot and helps us describe our principles and values.

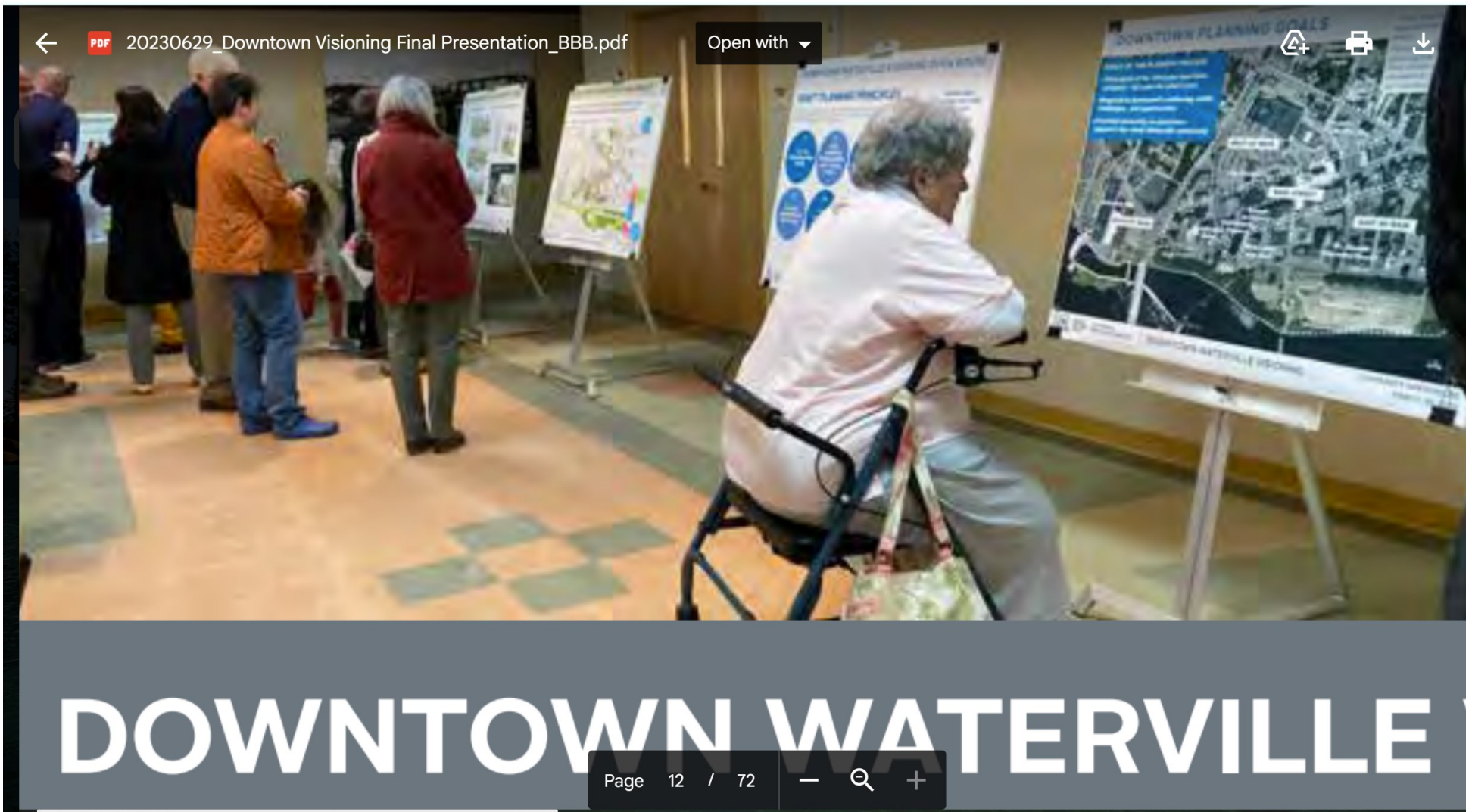
As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an updraft for the birds that follow. A flock of birds can fly 71% further than any one goose can fly alone.

Lesson: If we work together, we can do so much more!



I've looked at this picture many times but never realized that the person on the right is me. I thought it could be me but she looked too thin. Now I see that she has my purse! I love this pic and maybe especially the part that says "Downtown Waterville".

REM has done its part. Helping keep The Center going for 30 years as community property made it possible for the Schupf Center to be born remaining as community property.



Even if you weren't able to be here...both Jackie and I were there for you...as were many other REMers. We attended all of the sessions and were very impressed with the entire process and its community inclusiveness. The interests, passions and concerns we heard all around us are part of the plan. There was no "plan" prepared ahead of this process by either our local government or the BBB firm hired and working since 2014 to coalesce all of these ideas. And if I hear "Colbyville" one more time I'll scream! Facts are, without Colby money Lockwood would still be a falling down building, the Schuff Center wouldn't exist, and the help REM and REM Partners have gotten from our neighbors, the Colby Civic Engagement students, wouldn't exist either. And we as a community could never have afforded the expertise of BBB city planners all these years!





REM completed its work bringing community to The Center on Main Street which is now making Waterville THE center for the arts in Maine. We moved to Temple Street and built a Community Center there. COVID ended that, but REM has continued its work building community via Zoom and working with REM Partner organizations. Our focus now is to respond to the work being done by The City



of Waterville to include many spaces for community, one being a new home for “community use.” What can REM do to help create a new community center for our region?



The orange building on the plan at the left is a building that the City has acquired for its new Council Chambers and other community uses. At the planning events many spoke for the needs for a community center and those needs were varied and very exciting.



This drawing shows the space that would be short term...meaning could happen right away. It's what we previously knew as the Social Security Administration building.

As Co-Directors of REM, Jackie Dalton and I were invited to participate and we attended

every meeting. At every meeting we attended the need for a community center was discussed. The Chair of the Waterville City Council, Rebecca Green and the leaders of the BBB planning team met with us and we shared the 30 year history of REM's work at "The Center" at 93 Main Street which is now the Schupf Arts Center. They have reassured us that a community center is indeed a theme of this downtown revitalization. REM intends to do all that we can to help you participate in the creation of the vision for this building and our dream of a new home for REM. This would be the third time we have helped create a community center in 30 years. More than 5,000 people have in some way been part of the lives of previous REM spaces and many more attended events.



This is the “front yard” of the present building.

Now...



This is the artists vision of what the “front yard” of the community space could look like.

It’s your turn now. What do you want? What will you be willing to do to make that happen?

When...



When REM was forming in 1995 I was told the only people who would not be interested in REM's work to build a non-governmental sector of the democratic process would be any federal, state or local government. The statement was that these entities see the people as complainers who having little to offer. Until this year, that has been true. At this time, the Waterville City Council, has treated REM and all who participated in this planning process with respect, welcomed our ideas and invited us to help implement where possible.

Anyone buying a new home looks at their neighbors. Look who the neighbors will be! The very building REM worked so hard to save is right next door connected by the beautiful Art Walk. How perfect is that! The Waterville Opera House where we honor our REM Partner Community Volunteers at the REM Awards is even closer as well as the city workers who have worked tirelessly for community for year.

7. HEAD OF FALLS



Today our people's main concern...keeping Waterville's beautiful waterway open for public enjoyment is very much a part of the Downtown Waterville Vision Plan. And look at the present closest building—the community center's future home site, 46 Front Street. And who will live next door on the right, the people of Head of Falls Village. The very people who will enjoy the wonder of the arts at the Schupf and the spaces open to the public for family, business and community events at the Community Center.

From the days of the REM Community Catalyst in 1995 where the community spent 3 days writing their vision...to this very day our people have asked that our riverfront be open for community. Instead, office buildings were designed to go there.

I'm sitting here wondering if you're wondering how you can be part of all of this. If you made it to some of the planning sessions I'll bet you have an idea of what projects on which you'd like to be part of the creating team.

Here are some ways for you to connect. **(Click on the link below each picture.)**

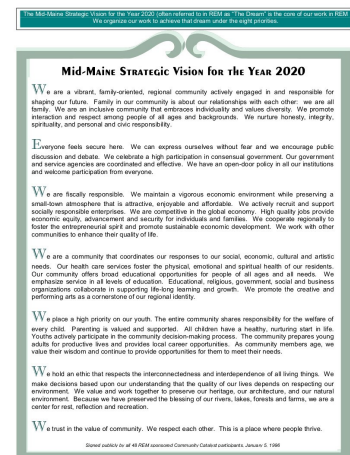
BE VERY SURE TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE FIRST ONE!!!



[Waterville's Downtown Visioning Final Presentation June 29th](#)



[REM Community Catalyst 1996](#)



[Mid-Maine Strategic Vision](#)

It is REM's plan to be part of the development of the Community Center and involve the regional community (including anyone who has moved away and wants to remain connected to our great community) in the process. Together we will think of all the ways you might participate. Zoom makes communications not previously possible easily achieved from all over the world.

Contact REM at 873-4444 or email rem@rem1.org