CEO Comments

Penny Parsekian – Fall 2010

CEO's Comments

By Penny Parsekian

One Leader, Many Options

The winds of change are bringing a new political landscape to New London and setting the stage for a year of jockeying over who will be New London's first elected mayor in decades. What will this mean for New London Main Street and the revitalization of the Historic Waterfront District? Luckily there is general agreement that investing in downtown pays dividends for the city, but how do we decide where to invest our precious dollars when the leadership has yet to coalesce?

Recently a number of big ideas have been proposed for downtown: the creation of a Theater District on State Street, with the addition of two new theaters; the development of Waterfront Park with a marina, floating docks and a children's park; the transformation of a portion of the empty retail spaces into condominium townhouses; the reactivation of rail service from New London through central Massachusetts and Vermont to Montreal; reconnecting downtown to the north end of the city and college hill; re-launching and expanding the monthly art strolls; pushing for more commuter rail; and installing a seasonal skating rink in Parade Plaza – a project already on our plate.

Meanwhile, New London Main Street continues to exert all possible effort to complete the many projects you will read about in this newsletter, initiatives that we promised as deliverables to the city for its support. Can we stay the course in the midst of this maelstrom of enticing and important projects? Will we be able to raise the funds necessary to complete our work plans when funders have the option to back other new, perhaps higher-profile projects? Will it all get done, somehow, or will we, as a community, have to prioritize and focus our limited resources? The next year will tell.