



CITY OF HALLOWELL

ONE WINTHROP STREET
HALLOWELL, MAINE 04347

NATE RUDY, CITY MANAGER

TEL: (207) 623-4021, Ext 203; FAX (207) 621-8317

MEMO

TO: Hallowell City Council and Mayor Walker

RE: Meeting with State Fire Marshal's Office regarding downtown fire and life safety Inspection

I met on Monday, August 29th with State Fire Marshal Joe Thomas and Assistant State Fire Marshal Rich McCarthy in follow up to their prior meetings with Hallowell officials regarding safety inspections for buildings in downtown Hallowell. In our very productive meeting we discussed previous plans to review all structures of mixed occupancy in the downtown district for code compliance, and plans for proactively addressing these concerns in the future.

Understanding that Hallowell's downtown economy faces immediate challenges from the scheduled 2018 rebuild of Water Street, we discussed a proposal through which the City of Hallowell might offer the following opportunities to downtown property owners in partnership with the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO):

- A letter of support for the code compliance effort from Hallowell City Council, explaining to the downtown property owners why Council supports the effort and why it is important to both property owners and the City as a whole and outlining the opportunities on this list.
- A public meeting and educational session about code compliance and common issues in historic buildings related to fire and life safety codes, including sprinkler systems and alternative means of code compliance, hosted by the City with assistance from the SFMO.
- Complementary code compliance reviews with a qualified third-party commercial property inspector, to be subsidized by the City.
- Information at City Hall and on the City website about the inspection process.
- SFMO code compliance inspections to be scheduled no earlier than after completion of the MeDOT Water Street project.

We also discussed the opportunity presented by the MeDOT road work on Water Street, which could be a good time for any downtown businesses considering adding a sprinkler system to install the necessary hookups to the Hallowell water system, as the expense of a road opening for excavation and plumbing to the building is often a contributing factor to prohibitive cost.

###