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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Grants will allow Main Street Skowhegan and Wesserunsett Arts to hire shared project coordinator**

SKOWHEGAN—Main Street Skowhegan and the Wesserunsett Arts Council (WesArts) will pool recently received grants from the Maine Community Foundation and the Betterment Fund to hire a shared project coordinator.

Slated to start sometime this summer, the new, full-time coordinator will be hired as a Main Street employee. S/he will help Main Street with continued implementation of Skowhegan's strategic plan and will also assist with WesArts' Somerset County cultural planning project.

"This model allows us to build the capacity of both organizations while increasing output and efficiency and keeping costs down," said Kristina Cannon, Main Street's executive director. "This new, shared hire will allow us to get more done and bring us closer to the goal of making Skowhegan, and the region, a better place to live, work, and visit."

Main Street led Skowhegan's strategic planning efforts in 2015-16, and the Skowhegan Strategic Plan for Community Transformation was officially accepted by the town in June 2016. The plan's ultimate goal is to make Skowhegan a thriving economic, cultural, and recreational destination where residents enjoy a high quality of life. Main Street also partnered with the Wesserunsett Arts Council in 2016 to develop a plan to leverage and promote cultural assets in Somerset County—including those related to recreation, agriculture, the arts, and heritage—as a means of driving tourism and boosting the region's economy. The cultural plan is slated for completion early this fall.

The new hire will be responsible for implementing community projects and events, developing relationships with other organizations, and building Main Street's and WesArts' capacity and efficiency.

The position will be funded by Main Street's grants from the Betterment Fund and the Western Mountains Fund of the Maine Community Foundation and by WesArts' grant from the Betterment Fund.

According to Cannon, this collaborative effort is a pilot project. Main Street is also in discussions with several other Skowhegan nonprofits regarding similar collaborative efforts as well.

For more information about the position, please visit [MainStreetSkowhegan.org/jobs](http://MainStreetSkowhegan.org/jobs).