

Town of Camden
Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, June 14, 2010, **5:30 PM**
Washington Street Conference Room

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Don Abbott, Dan Bookham, Roberta Smith, Deb Dodge, John Arnold, Kipp Wright, Martin Cates, Morgan Laidlaw, Jim Fullilove, Ellis Cohn, Lowrie Sargent, Susan Howland, Mathew Eddy, Maura Kelly Jim Elliott, Michael Thompson, and Peter Gross

1. Recent vote, budget approval, committee changes

Martin Cates was elected to the Select Board at the June town meeting and therefore was required to resign as chair of CEDAC. Kipp Wright, as vice-chair, took over the meeting. He will continue to act as chair until the CEDAC meeting on July 12, following the Select Board meeting of July 6 when new members are appointed or reappointed.

It was noted that the town budget was approved at town meeting, including funding for the new development director position.

2. Susan Howland (Downtown Business Group).

Susan (CEO and CFO of Wayfarer) gave a brief presentation about the Camden Downtown Business Group (CDBG). It currently has about 60 members and was formed about 25 years ago to advocate for downtown businesses. They have primarily focused on tourism, and on advertising Camden. Members of CDBG were instrumental in creating CEDAC. Currently, they are moving toward being a complement to the Chamber and getting more involved in town issues that affect their members, which may require a change in their bylaws. Susan expressed eagerness and willingness for the CDBG executive committee to meet with CEDAC as the occasion appears.

3. Michael Thompson, Fox Hill.

Jim Elliott and Michael Thompson, representing Matt Simmons, gave a presentation on the proposed changes in use for the Fox Hill estate. They envision using it as a conference center, providing facilities for small conferences (up to 300 attendees), symposia, and social events. The goal is build on the success of events like PopTech and the Camden Conference to provide economic benefits to the area from these events. This facility will not be a resort, hotel, or restaurant. Solar powered shuttle busses are under consideration to transport event attendees between Fox Hill and the local inns and hotels (and restaurants) where they will be staying.

The effort to create this conference facility will take some time to accomplish. It will require a change to the zoning ordinance, followed by site plan review by the planning board and review by the zoning board for a special exemption permit. Tentatively, the earliest this could all take place is by the summer of 2011.

4. Mathew Eddy, Eaton Peabody.

Roberta Smith explained that she is finalizing arrangements with Eaton Peabody to fill the development director position as of July 1. This will allow us to complete the next step of creating the strategic plan that is part of the TIF process. They will help us refine the job description and assist us in preparing one and five year goals for the new development director. The objective is that, by October, a work plan for this new position will have been developed and we will be in a position to advertise it. Mathew's work schedule will be Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from July 22 through January 1, 2011.

Mathew will fine tune his proposal and work plan for this interim period with Roberta and distribute it to CEDAC.

5. Toolkit update.

There were no new developments to report, except that Joanne Billings has agreed to join the effort, representing REDAC.

6. Lorain Francis for the 28th, Rockland Main Street.

7. Town vote Tuesday June 8 and Town Meeting Weds June 9.

See above.

8. Miscellaneous and conclusion

Meeting schedule change: The next two CEDAC meetings are scheduled for Monday June 28 and Monday July 8 at 5:30 in the WSCR. After July 8, CEDAC will change its meeting days to the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. This means the second meeting in July will be on the 22nd, while the August meetings will be on August 12 and 26, 2010. This will continue until at least January 1, 2011.

Next meeting June 28, 5:30 PM, WSCR.