



**Town of Camden  
Minutes of the Downtown Network  
Board Meeting  
March 10, 2014, 3:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Co-Chair Oscar Verest, John Arnold, Martin Cates, Deb Dodge, Cindy Lampley, Robin McIntosh, Amy Rollins, Lowrie Sargent, Jennifer Temple, Town Manager Pat Finnigan, Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Wilson and Development Director Brian Hodges.

Guests: Don White, Camden Select Board; Cassie Snyder, Knox Mill Condo Complex; Jane Burke and Gina Colombato, presenters

**ABSENT:** Erick Anderson, Bernice Berger, Pete Brown, Ellis Cohn, Staci Coomer, Flint Decker, Peter Gross, Samantha Hill, Dave Jackson, Jill Lang, Barrie Pribyl, Meg Quijano, and Kipp Wright.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

**2. Approval of Board Minutes**

The minutes of the February 10, 2013 meeting were approved.

**3. Update - Tax Increment Financing**

Brian Hodges updated the Board on the proposed TIF amendment that would wrap the Knox Mill area into the Downtown TIF and would add a Credit Enhancement Agreement (CEA). He explained that the CEA would be used as an economic incentive program to attract investment in the Town and create jobs.

**4. Parking Enforcement Issue**

Pat Finnigan told the group that the Town had received some complaints about ticketing of vehicles. She said that the Police Department would turn its focus to informing people about all-day parking options as opposed to a penalty approach, and that turnover on the streets is the goal. Members also discussed ways to make visitors and residents more aware of the Knox Mill parking lot.

**5. Painting/Mosaic on Camden Merchants Co-op**

Artists Jane Burke and Gina Colombato presented ideas for a mural on the side of the Camden

Merchants Co-op building. They described their interactive process of creating murals that engages members of the community as well as students. The artists said the process of creating a mural could take 6 weeks to 2 months, and they passed out a sketch of a proposed design with the theme of "Where the Mountains Meet the Sea."

Plans for potential uses of the parking lot were discussed. The question was also raised of who would own the mural since it would be affixed to a privately owned building. Paying for the project through private fundraising is an option. Lowrie Sargent reminded the group that there exists a long wish-list of projects that need funding, and that a fundraising campaign would compete with other efforts that are going on including raising money for the Opera House renovation. Brian Hodges will collect more feedback and report back to the group at the next meeting.

#### **6. Tactical Urbanism video and discussion**

A TED video was shown on the process of developing and constructing creative streetscapes. The group discussed possibilities for this type of tactical urbanism in Camden. The video showed that retail sales had increased dramatically at businesses locations that were adjacent to the streetscapes. Discussion centered on how residents would react to the new style of these designs. The group talked about ways to help the community embrace change.

Oscar Verest suggested that the Board come up with a list of their top 5 locations for a new streetscape.

Suggestions were:

- \* the alleyway near Cappy's
- \* Commercial Street leading down to the Public Landing
- \* a bump-out on the corner of Mechanic Street and Route 1
- \* a bump-out in front of Camden National Bank
- \* a bump-out in front of the Town Office
- \* a bump-out in front of Cappy's
- \* an area near the Montessori School.

#### **7. Public Comments/Questions**

There were no public comments.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Downtown Network Board will be held April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary