



Discover the Jewel of the Maine Coast

Downtown Network Board meeting minutes August 13, 2014 - 11:30am

PRESENT: *Members:* Co-Chair Oscar Verest, Co-Chair Deb Dodge, John Arnold, Paul Cavalli, Staci Coomer, Dave Jackson, Cindy Lampley, Robin McIntosh, Amy Rollins, Lowrie Sargent, Town Manager Pat Finnigan and Development Director Brian Hodges.

Guests: Don White, Camden Select Board; Public Works Director Rick Seibell

ABSENT: Erick Anderson, Bernice Berger, Pete Brown, Ellis Cohn, Flint Decker, Jill Lang, Barrie Pribyl, Meg Quijano, Jennifer Temple, and Kipp Wright.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am.

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Pete Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Meg Quijano. It was unanimously approved.

3. Welcome new member: Paul Cavalli

The Board welcomed Paul Cavalli representing of CEDAC.

4. Brochure Rack on Village Green

John Arnold discussed the idea of placing a brochure rack on the Village Green that would contain maps for visitors. The location would be ideal for the bus tours unloading, he noted. Members were in favor of this, and it was decided that the Camden at a Glance map would be the appropriate brochure to distribute. A 3-way split of the cost of reprinting between the Town of Camden / CDBG / Chamber was discussed. Brian said he would get a quote on the holders from Elm Street Marketing Essentials.

5. Parking

Brian said that the new All-Day parking map had been created. He explained that there is a

digital version for inclusion on websites, and that the printed version will be distributed via holders on the parking signs as well as other locations. The Board discussed the idea of posting a large version of the map at the Library and on the outside wall of the Chamber building.

6. Demonstration Projects

Brian thanked Rick Seibell, Director of Camden Public Works, for the great work that his department had done on the new Harbor Walkway.

Safety for pedestrians was discussed in light of the loading/unloading activity that goes on at the base of the walkway.

Staci Coomer commended the committee for the vast improvement in attractiveness of the area, noting it is much more inviting and that people are using it.

7. Evening Entertainment Options

Lowrie Sargent spoke about the recent formation of the “Camden After Dark” work group aimed at providing more evening entertainment options in town. He told the group how important this will be in attracting young people to the area and making the downtown vibrant at night. Ideas from Board members included:

- regular movies at the Opera House
- minstrels performing around town
- acoustic music in local dining establishments
- Library programming using their inflatable screen in the amphitheater

Lowrie said that currently the work group consists of Don White, Paul Cavalli and himself. It was suggested that CIFF could potentially participate as a partner.

8. The Tannery Property

Brian updated the Board on the letter of intent received from North East Mobile Health Services to purchase the Tannery property from the Town. He explained that a Town Meeting vote had given the Select Board the authority to dispose of the property in a way that met the guiding principles that had been accepted by the voters in 2008. He added that NEMHS could eventually provide around 30 well-paying jobs for residents, including young people, and that the sale would relieve the Town of the substantial annual costs associated with the property. Pat Finnigan noted that any questions or concerns from citizens should be directed to her.

Don White noted that this presented an opportunity bring health care back into Camden, saving 5-10 minutes in pickup and transport. He also noted that the business revenue stemming from NEMHS being in this location could be a linchpin for neighborhood businesses.

9. Public Comments/Questions

There were no public comments.

10. **Next Meeting**

Brian reminded the group that the next meeting of the Downtown Network Board would be held September 13th at 11:30am.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary