



Penobscot Bay
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Discover the Jewel of the Maine Coast

Downtown Network Board – meeting minutes

October 8, 2014 – 11:30am

PRESENT: *Members:* Co-Chair Deb Dodge, John Arnold, Dave Jackson, Cindy Lampley, Robin McIntosh, Amy Rollins, Jennifer Temple and Town Manager Pat Finnigan.

Guests: Jane Lafleur, Friends of Midcoast Maine

ABSENT: Co-Chair Oscar Verest, Erick Anderson, Bernice Berger, Ellis Cohn, Staci Coomer, Flint Decker, Jill Lang, Barrie Pribyl, Meg Quijano, Lowrie Sargent and Don White.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Board Minutes

John Arnold made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Jackson. It was unanimously approved.

3. The Community Institute

4. Jane Lafleur, Executive Director of the Friends of Midcoast Maine, told to the Board that her organization would be running a “Community Institute” at the end of October to train citizens in concepts of community planning and turning ideas into action. She said that the focus of this program would be “Streets, Place and People” and that the class planned to use part of the Public Landing to construct a temporary demonstration project. Their work would be based on the TY Lin concept plans for the Landing, she explained.

Lafleur told the group that she had met with CEDAC, the Planning Board, the Select Board, and the Harbor Committee and that the Select Board had authorized the use of the Landing on October 31st for the project. Pat Finnigan offered to support any member of the Downtown Network Board, CEDAC or CDBG who would like to attend the program. There was discussion on a possible Halloween event on the Landing during the afternoon that day.

John Arnold made a motion that the DNB endorse the Friends of Midcoast Maine’s request to do a class project at the Public Landing based on the Public Landing Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Robin McIntosh and was unanimously approved.

Robin McIntosh spoke about a speaker at a recent Maine Municipal Association meeting named Peter Kageyama who wrote, “For the Love of Cities.” She said that Kageyama is knowledgeable about demonstration projects and recommended the book.

Robin also suggested writing thank-you notes to those who have run major Camden events, for instance the Library’s Harbor Arts Show. It was decided that Deb and Oscar would write one from the DNB and that Robin would write a note from CEDAC thanking the Library for their work on a successful show.

5. Updates

a) Brochure Rack on Village Green

Pat Finnigan said that the racks had been installed on the Green.

b) Parking signs

The parking signs leading to all-day parking off Washington Street are in operation, Pat said. The signs were discussed briefly, especially the one on the corner near Green With Envy that keeps being moved out of place.

c) "Harborway" to the Public Landing

Next the group spoke about the Harborway near Cappy's which is being well-used. Deb noted that before spring the Board should look at coming up with a permanent design for the stencil at the entry, as well as signage. She also suggested that Christmas lights be used to decorate during the darker months and asked what was planned for the walkway during winter.

Amy Rollins brought up the issue of the truck deliveries interfering with use of the walkway and causing a safety hazard for pedestrians. Possible long-term options for a loading and unloading zone were discussed.

d) Public Landing Improvements

The State has given the Town more time to complete the Public Landing improvements that had been planned for this year, the Town Manager said. The projects will be started this fall and completed in the spring. These include the outer boardwalk around the Landing, railings, lighting and the fisherman's hoist, she said.

Outlets along the boardwalk were discussed, which could be used for decorations such as Christmas lighting. Dave Jackson also suggested stringing lights between the lamp poles in Harbor Park. The group decided to try to keep the Christmas tree in Harbor Park up through the Winterfest and Toboggan Nationals in February.

e) Camden After Dark

Since members of the Camden After Dark Committee were not present there was no report.

f) Use of Tannery Property Advisory Question

Pat Finnigan spoke about local issues on the Nov. 4 ballot, including the question on B&Bs on High Street serving dinner to guests, and the advisory question on use of the Tannery property.

Finnigan noted that the advisory question would give guidance to the Select Board, but that as far as any decisions made, the Board would still be bound by the will of the Town Meeting last June. Since 2008, she noted, the community has supported commercial use of the site. Therefore the time between this election and next June will be an important time for an open conversation about future options for the site.

Robin told the group she had written a letter to the Select Board on behalf of CEDAC encouraging voters to keep options open for a balanced approach to the Tannery property that could include putting it back on the tax roles.

6. Public Comments/Questions

There were no public comments.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Downtown Network Board will be held Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

Adjourn

Dave Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deb Dodge seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned at 12:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary