

**Town of Camden**  
**Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee Agenda (CEDAC)**

Monday, February 13, 2012, 5:30 PM  
Washington St. Conference Room

**Meeting Attendees and Notes**

Attendees

- CEDAC and Liaison: Peter Gross (Chair), Brian Hodges, Dan Bookham, Lowrie Sargent, Kipp Wright, Ellis Cohn, Pete Brown, Rick Bates, Martin Cates and John Arnold

Notes

1. Minutes of 1/23/12 meeting were approved.
2. REDAC/CEDAC Meeting, February 7: Peter briefed the attendees on the meeting. Two key items were covered at the 2/7 meeting.
  - Many welfare recipients in Knox County will cease receiving \$500/month welfare checks this summer (about 328 in June alone). This will reduce the income flow into Knox County and increase the demand for municipal welfare.
  - Coastal Trans has provided about \$10K for a study of regional bus service between Camden and Thomaston. This being considered in connection with the new shopping coming to Thomaston.
3. Revolving Loan Fund: Brian informed the attendees that the Midcoast Economic Development District (MCEDD) has set up a business loan program for businesses in the district including Camden businesses. Brian and Dan will be providing this information to new and existing business that may find it helpful to meet the gap between what commercial banks can loan and what may be needed for location of expansion. The loan program will also be advertised on the Town Website. This eliminates the need for the CEDAC to consider such a program with TIF funds.
4. TIF Fund uses: Brian informed the attendees that the Opera House Committee will not need TIF funds at this time. Instead Brian and Peter suggested that \$25,000 be set aside for use by the Development Director to commence activities suggested by the results of the current Downtown Master Plan effort that are consistent with the TIF guidelines. These include but are not limited to signage, lighting, and marketing. After extensive discussion the CEDAC voted unanimously to request that Brian develop this budget proposal to be included in the budget to be presented to the March Budget Committee meetings.

Peter informed the attendees that the CEDAC will be discussing the inclusion of the Knox Mill in the Camden TIF program at the next meeting.

5. Maine Downtown Network Application: Brian recommends that the Town of Camden submit a Maine Downtown Network application to help focus the efforts to improve Camden downtown development and possibly offer additional grant opportunities including the Green Downtown initiative discussed recently on public television. If accepted dues will be \$500/year that would be supported by the Development Director's budget and Camden folks would need to participate in at least three Statewide meetings per year. After some discussion the CEDAC voted unanimously to request that Brian complete and submit this application.
6. Downtown Master Plan: January 26 meeting attendance surpassed meeting organizer expectations. The CEDAC expressed appreciation for Brian's role in setting up and conducting the meeting. The facilitated sessions were useful in surfacing ideas for the downtown planning effort. The next working group meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21 at 2:30 in the Tucker Room of the Camden Opera House. Brian is also finalizing a downtown planning survey with the help of the Chamber of Commerce. This survey should be available soon. Attendees offered some edits on a draft survey that was circulated at the meeting.
7. Public comment/questions: None
8. Adjourn 7:05 PM Next meeting February 27