



**Community and  
Economic Development  
Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the  
March 28, 2016 meeting  
4:00pm, WCSR**

**PRESENT:** Co-Chair John Arnold, Co-Chair Paul Cavalli, Martin Cates, Ellis Cohn, Deb Dodge, Steve Matteo, Robin McIntosh, Tom Peaco, Meg Quijano, and Karen Brace

**ABSENT:** Jamie Weymouth

**MEETING PURPOSE:**

*To build and sustain a vital, multi-generational, year round community which will continue to retain and attract citizens and businesses, including young and creative individuals, to live and work in our town and our region.*

**KEY THINGS DISCUSSED:**

Lodging Group Issue: Airbnb

- Anita Zeno, Chair of the Camden Area Business Group Lodging Committee, explained how local innkeepers are reacting to short-term rentals in the area which violate local ordinances
- Planning Board is conducting a survey of citizens to gather opinions on short-term rentals

Opera House Committee: Guests Marc Ratner and Matt Brown

- Marc reported that the committee is working hard to make modifications and improvements
  - Bringing more varied shows and performances that appeal to a wide audience
  - Began a successful Winter Family Film series Sundays at affordable price point
  - CIFF showing Weds night films year-round with a good following
  - New website recently completed
- Matt: working to create a vital arts center in the middle of town that the community can use.
  - Putting together an alliance of 5 venues to create a 5-stop “mini-tour” for artists
  - Multiplier effect
- Topic of Camden as a “convener” of conferences
  - Camden as a campus for hosting conferences and annual meetings
  - Sets us apart from Strand
  - Opportunity for lodging to package with events

Structure: DEVT and CEDAC (Paul)

- DEVT to focus on downtown vitality and projects, CEDAC - broad economic issues, entire town
- Separate meeting times: DEVT 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds at 9am following Promo Team meeting
- Camden Area Business Group was discussed in relation to DEVT, balancing projects & roles
- CEDAC to interact with Select Board, bringing recommendations in advisory capacity

Business Visit: Children's House Montessori School (John A.)

- John reported that his visit to CHMS heightened his awareness of the significant contributions made by nonprofits to our town
- The school attracts just the people we want in Camden
  - 67 students, 80% from Camden
  - Walkable for many students / families
  - Supports 13 employees
  - Next year adding grades 3-6
- John had asked how CEDAC can help the school
  - Make connections
  - Energy improvements
  - Larger playground for older kids (John had suggested CRMS playground)
- Idea of an education panel coming back to CEDAC rather than one school at a time.
- Online form available for compiling results

**NEXT STEPS:**

Downtown Economic Vitality Team to establish separate meeting

Invite new members: DEVT and CEDAC

Finalize terms: CEDAC

Research Airbnb further

Continue visits to educational sector and businesses – report back

**NEXT MEETING:**

Last Monday of the month, April 25, 4pm WSCR