

Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee – minutes
05/19/2014 5:00 PM – Washington St Conf Room, Camden Opera House



Attending: Deb Dodge (Chair), Meg Quijano, Ellis Cohn, Peter Gross, Pete Brown, Martin Cates, Lowrie Sargent, Brian Hodges

Public attending: Tom Wilhite, Paul Cavalli

Absent: Kipp Wright, John Arnold, Robin McIntosh, Staci Coomer

1. Approval of minutes from 04/28/2014 meeting – *unanimous*

2. Richard Ogle – Midcoast Millennials Mentoring (M3)

Richard distributed a poster and postcard designed for this new group focused on millennials, which is defined by the Pew Trust as 18-23 year olds. He found that young people are facing many challenges including a lack of good jobs, student debt, future prospects worse than their parents, and a trend of 5-6 careers over the course of their lifetime. After speaking with his colleagues, M3 was created. 11 students attended the first meeting held at the University of ME's Rockland center and their 3rd meeting is scheduled for May 22nd where an expert on student debt will be attending. They also have a [Facebook page](#) created. At this point, they have a number of mentors but are hoping to gain more students. M3 is collaborating with Midcoast Magnet as there is some overlap. If the model goes well, it is designed to be replicated in other areas.

Deb indicated she was intrigued by M3 because it aligns with a CEDAC goal of entrepreneurial space. Richard replied space is important and suggested the Tannery be considered. Peter G. mentioned that a goal of CEDAC was to attract and retain young people, and mentoring becomes a great asset too. Lowrie suggested Strive be contacted as it teaches young people how to become adults, and that branches were opening in Rockland and Belfast. Pete B. suggested Coastal Enterprises Inc as a resource and Deb referenced a recent article about student debt appearing in Kiplinger's June 2014 magazine. Richard encouraged any and all ideas to be sent to him at richardaogle@gmail.com

3. CEDAC membership, bylaws, schedule and MCEDD rep

Deb recapped where CEDAC stands with its schedule of meeting 2x/month, with 1 being as the Downtown Network Board. Last year, CEDAC changed its meeting time to run from 5PM - 6:30PM on the 4th Monday. The following terms expire June 2014: Regular member Kipp Wright and alternate members Peter Gross, John Arnold, and Robin McIntosh.

Meg indicated she has spoken with CEDAC members, except Kipp, and confirmed they're willing and available to meet beginning at 4 or 4:30PM. With Kipp's term expiring, we'll see if he resubmits an interest form. A discussion was had about the definition of an alternate and Deb mentioned the practice has been 1 year terms. She also suggested that we identify whether key reps are missing from our focus areas (e.g. arts/culture), and ensure candidates are willing to be active and "do-ers". Martin reminded the committee that interest forms are due mid June with appointments by the Select Board in July.

Brian reviewed Camden's affiliation with the Mid Coast Economic Development District (MCEDD) and the need to have 2 delegates recommended by CEDAC and appointed by the Select Board for its General Assembly (annual meeting). Historically, Peter G. and Brian have been named and attended. CEDAC recommends Brian and John with Deb as backup if John is not available.

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4. Downtown improvements; tactical urbanism

Brian reviewed how the Downtown Network Board had taken up this topic and identified a number of areas to try these temporary improvements. The list was then pared down to 3 locations: 1) alleyway between Cappy's and Lily, Lupine, and Fern 2 & 3) intersection of Elm and Chestnut, corners by Camden Nat'l Bank and the Village Green. The Downtown Network Board recommended these 3 starting areas. Meg, Pete B., and Brian then met with David Robichaud from Cappy's and Cassie Snyder, Camden resident from the Knox Mill condos to review tactical urbanism, the proposed locations, and what could be done. Jack McKenney, a local artist with a studio just off the alleyway, was unavailable to attend but intends to assist. They, too, agree to these being good starting points. Additional details will be fleshed out in preparation for a recommendation to the Select Board on June 3rd. Pete B. spoke with Gary from Lily, Lupine, and Fern about it. While he's unavailable to attend, he expressed that he was "on board".

Peter G. suggested we may risk items being taken as they're being set up temporarily. Deb reminded that New York did it successfully and Brian also suggested there are items already starting in the alleyway, thanks to Cappy's, that are staying in place. *CEDAC unanimously approved these 3 locations as recommended projects.*

5. Follow up from last meeting re: Tannery development

Pete summarized that between CEDAC and the Planning Board, we all seem to be on the same page. Lowrie reminded CEDAC to have suggestions to the Planning Board by end of June. Deb requested a work group be formed to create draft recommendations that are brought back to the full CEDAC: John, Ellis, Robin, John Scholz, and Brian. Lowrie commented that the Planning Board is working on creating an overlay zone that while it may be applicable to the Tannery, he's concerned about what it will accomplish without a potential user and whether the work group should focus strictly on a marketing strategy. Lowrie mentioned other communities have successfully done this but they operate in a Town council form of gov't vs. a Town meeting. He also recommended the Guiding Principles be removed. Deb and Pete B. agreed the work group needs to "move on it".

6. Other

- a. Pete B. inquired about the Opera House report and what needs to be done to have it delivered. Martin advised CEDAC submit a request via Brian to the Town Manager.
- b. Pete B. would like to consider shutting down Chestnut St to vehicles on Saturday AM for activities like a Farmers Market. Deb requested we invite the new Postmaster to the next meeting.

7. Public comment /questions

Paul suggested that M3 connect with young(er) business owners already in place. He also commented that he was in NY when they did the tactical urbanism we watched on video and strongly recommends we include clear messaging about why we're doing it.

8. Adjourn – 6:35PM

NOTE: Downtown Network Board will next meet TBD
CEDAC will next meet 06/23/2014 @ 5PM