

Town of Camden  
Community & Economic Development Committee  
Monday, May 23, 2011  
Washington Street Conference Room

Meeting Attendees and Notes

Attendees

CEDAC and liaison: Peter Gross, Don Abbott, Rick Bates, Kip Wright, Jim Fullilove, Martin Cates, Lowrie Sargent, Brian Hodges  
Public: Pete Brown, Justin Holmes, Tom Wilhite

Notes

1. Minutes of 5/09/2011 were approved

2. Heart & Soul Community Planning

Presentation by Jane Lafleur about a community development program offered by the Orton Family Foundation, which “invites proposals from small cities and towns committed to planning for future growth and change that preserves and enhances their community’s character—it’s distinctive ‘heart and soul’ attributes.” Jane described a development project put in place by Damariscotta that she helped administer. She encouraged Camden to submit an application (July 18 deadline). Projects require a matching grant from the community, either public or private. Peter suggested a subsequent meeting with Jane. For more information, visit [www.orton.org/projects/rfp](http://www.orton.org/projects/rfp)

3. Tannery parcel/discussion of process.

Attendees discussed the process that resulted in the film company withdrawing its offer on the Tannery property. Comments included: the need for information released to the public on a project to be 100% accurate or it will serve as a distraction during the public discussion process; the need to release information to the public as soon as possible in order to facilitate competent decision-making; the need to better familiarize the public with the buyers in advance. Regarding the sale of public land (such as the Tannery), a comment was made that developers won’t want to spend money only to get shot down by a public vote. A comment was made that the process happened too quickly, that some people felt the sale was being ramrodded through. A comment was made that there were safeguards and checkpoints built in to the process (financing commitment inspection by the bank, DEP review, Planning Board review of the building) but that the purchase was terminated before the process could be completed. A comment was made that the original Tannery Guiding Principles for Development were voted on by the public years ago and approved 2:1. The committee asked Brian to develop a focused summary of talking points that will be made available to inform the public of the facts surrounding the 6A vs. 6B vote in advance of the public vote.

4. Letter of intent submission and next steps for grant funds (12 Bay View St.)

Brian distributed a document entitled: Talking Points—CMF grant---Bay View Garage Building, which described a state program that provides capital investment to stimulate

economic development and job creation by making investments under the Communities for Maine's Future Program. Brian was approached by Stuart and Marianne Smith about tapping the program to help rehabilitate the Bay View Street Garage Building. Brian asked CEDAC members to review the information and report individually to him.

5. Other agenda items (Brian's update on attendance at creative economy conference, review of common components of the downtown plan, marketing for Camden and miscellaneous reports) were moved ahead to the next meeting due to time constraints.
6. Next meetings: June 13 and June 27