



**Community and
Economic Development
Advisory Committee
Minutes of the June 6, 2016 meeting
4:00pm, WCSR**

PRESENT: Co-Chair John Arnold, Co-Chair Paul Cavalli, Martin Cates, Ellis Cohn, Robin McIntosh, Karen Brace

ABSENT: Deb Dodge, Steve Matteo, Tom Peaco, Meg Quijano, 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:

- There was a motion (John Arnold) and second (Robin McIntosh) to accept the minutes of the April 25th meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- National Oz Museum: Paul
Paul said that the Oz collection, owned by two residents of Camden, will be featured at an upcoming exhibit at the Figge Museum in Iowa ([link to exhibit](#)). This is likely the largest collection of Oz artifacts in the world. The program is extensive and includes educational outreach initiatives. The owners of the collection are also authorities on Peyton Place and have produced a 35 mm reprint of the original film that will make its debut at the Strand.
- Updates:
Opera House rates study (Deb) / recruiting new conferences
Deb and Steve are continuing their work assessing the rate structure of conferences at the Opera House and developing a look at the economic impact of Camden's conferences on the community. The goal is to work with the Opera House Committee and staff to present a recommendation from CEDAC to the Select Board.

Representative for MCEEDD's General Assembly

The group discussed the need for a representative to the Midcoast Economic Development District General Assembly. Jonathan McDevitt was recommended. The decision was made to continue discussion at the next meeting.

New Business welcome event / press

The Business is Blooming welcome event was successful. 14 new businesses or those that had changed hands in Camden during the past year were welcomed at an event at the Opera House. With the help of Broadreach Public Relations, the press has caught onto this event and articles on Camden's new businesses are underway in MaineBiz and other publications.

Snow Bowl Budget Committee update (Paul)

Paul reported on the work of this committee.

Town Meeting: June 15th

CEDAC members were encouraged to attend the Town Meeting and support important issues that will affect the Town's future.

Tannery Work Group Community Meeting: June 20th

John and Karen reported that the Tannery Work Group will hold its second Community Meeting, and that participation representing CEDAC would be important.

- Business Visitation program reports

Paul had appointments to speak with the Camden Conference (Kim Scott, Peter Imber and Bruce Cole) as well as Outward Bound.

Robin had interviewed the Watershed School and the Acadia School of English Immersion. She reported on the activities and attributes of each, as well as the impressions of the foreign students regarding Camden. Robin also spoke about a project of Midcoast Leadership Academy - the Midcoast Youth Hub – a daycare bringing older and younger generations together.

- Discussion: *What Camden offers its young people*

The group had a lively discussion on this topic. Housing continues to be a major problem for young families.

- Paul had recently visited the Waterman Community Center on North Haven which is run as a non-profit organization. It houses a 75-80-seat theater, meeting rooms and a child care center.

NEXT MEETING:

There was discussion on the summer meeting schedule. The decision was to hold the July meeting and take the August meeting off.

The next meeting will be June 27, 2016, 4pm Washington Street Conference Room.