



**Community and
Economic Development
Advisory Committee
Minutes of the June 27, 2016 meeting
4:00pm, WCSR**

PRESENT: Co-Chair John Arnold, Co-Chair Paul Cavalli, Martin Cates, Ellis Cohn, Steve Matteo, Meg Quijano, Marc Ratner, Amy Rollins, Karen Brace

ABSENT: Tom Peaco, Robin McIntosh

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:

- Marc Ratner was welcomed as the liaison to CEDAC from the Select Board.
- There was a motion (Paul) and second (Meg) to accept the minutes of the June 6th meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Membership was discussed: We're grateful for the long-time participation of Deb Dodge, who has termed out. Deb is stepping down. Jamie Weymouth has also contributed a great deal but is no longer eligible since his family has moved to Lincolnville.
 1. Paul Cavalli made a motion to recommend that Martin Cates and Steve Matteo replace Deb and Jamie as regular members. The motion was unanimously approved.
 2. Ellis Cohn is willing to continue serving for another term. This leaves one alternate slot still open.
- Paul reported on the exhibit at Iowa's Figge Museum of the Oz Collection which he attended. The renowned collection is owned by Tom Wilhite and Willard Carroll of Camden. Tom and Willard have been interested since moving to Camden in locating the National Oz Museum here, which would be a world-wide attraction to town. The space would require 5000-6000 square feet.
 1. The exhibit at the 6-story Figge Museum was three times the size of the Oz exhibit that was held at the Farnsworth two years ago. 200 people attended the opening event. The exhibit included workshops and kids' events, with programming a large part of the draw.
 2. There was discussion about the middle school (MET building) as a possible location for a museum. We will hear more about Oz at a subsequent CEDAC meeting.
- Members of the Tannery Work Group reported on the June 20th public meeting and next steps. As part of the discussion, the Economic Vitality Team has talked over the impact of losing the Farmer's Market from the downtown area if the market were to move to the Tannery site, which is looking highly probable.
- CEDAC's Outreach & Visitation program – Paul reported on his meetings with representatives from Camden's three major conferences.
 1. He had met with Kim Scott, Peter Imber and Bruce Cole of the Camden Conference on June 9th. Bruce is the incoming chair. The Camden Conference is in its 30th year. The Camden Conference has a student educational fund to provide scholarships. In addition, the conference puts on a number of year-round programs and their geographic spread

is very wide. We will be inviting the Camden Conference to attend a future meeting this fall.

2. Pop Tech – Paul had also spoken with Leetha Filderman who is excited about this year’s program coming in October. This will be Pop-Tech’s 20th year.
3. CIFF, now in its 12th year, has made an important announcement about evolving toward a year-round organization as the Points North Institute (www.pointsnorthinstitute.org). Paul serves on this board and informed the group about CIFF’s growth. The festival will remain as the highlight. Points North will feature workshops in other seasons based in Camden, pairing filmmakers with mentors. *(More information on Points North is included with these minutes.)*

- All three of Camden’s major conferences are in need of spaces to accommodate their growing programs, especially medium-size spaces. Should the whole Opera House building be turned into conference space and the Town Offices moved to a different facility?
- Discussion of Camden’s “niche” as education in a variety of forms:
 1. highest quality public and private schools with a variety of educational options;
 2. the site of world-class think-tank conferences that attract national and international attendees and enrich the lives of Camden residents and students;
 3. the concept of “Camden as a campus”
 - CEDAC should work to ensure that Camden has the capability of supporting this.
- Opera House rates study – Steve and Deb have been working on an economic impact analysis of the conferences so that fees potentially lessened by the Select Board for our three major events. The subcommittee will be pairing with the Opera House committee on this effort.
- The group discussed the potential goal for Camden to host 5-6 conferences a year. Potential for a writer’s/literary conference and others such as revitalizing the Juice Conference.
- *For further discussion at upcoming meetings:*
 - recruiting new conferences, establishing structure to support this;
 - continuing economic impact studies of conferences.