

DOWNTOWN NETWORK BOARD MINUTES
SEPT 16, 2015
Washington Street Conference Room

The meeting was called to order at 11:30.

1. Mission

Members discussed and finalized the DNB mission.

To build collaboration utilizing community assets to strengthen and energize Camden's downtown.

2. Proposed Goals

There was discussion on the goals and four goals were decided on:

To serve as a resource for our teams, other organizations and events

To identify current and potential community assets

To identify funding sources to implement our projects.

To advocate for downtown Camden's vitality through building community support.

3. Vision - the group decided that the next step would be to formulate a vision for the DNB.

Four "audiences" or constituencies were identified: residents, visitors, businesses, and young people whom we hope to attract. Visioning words were written down to be considered for the vision as part of the next meeting.

WE ARE...

Year-round

Quaint Village

"The way life should be"

Maritime activities

Outdoors

Where the Mountains meet the sea

Sense of community

Heritage

authentic

Open-minded, open to change and new opportunities

Add in WHAT WE WANT TO BE...

to attract young people to live here (millennial age bracket)

families

active

a vital downtown

innovative

technologically advanced for people who work remotely

hubs where community can gather

4. Design Team Report

Paul Cavalli updated the Board on activities of the Design Team. He spoke about the team's mission and goals and how they had developed their project list, originating from

the priorities list of the Downtown Network Board based on the Downtown Master Plan. Paul described the top five projects that are currently in the planning stages.

There was some discussion on the sign at Shirttail Point which is out of town, and on the project list as needing to be changed. Meg pointed out that it's part of the Riverwalk. It was decided to work with Parks and Recreation on this sign.

Cindy asked who can attend meetings to have input, and Paul said that the meetings are open with a section at the end for public comments and questions.

5. Event Overview

Karen said the Town has taken on a great deal with respect to events, as the fall-back position to make sure they continue.

a. Windjammer Festival

Windjammer Festival is "in transition" as it is now run by the Town with a very strong committee. This year's festival Labor Day weekend had more energy than in the past. Vendors were pleased and attendees seemed happy (luckily the weather was perfect). The festival had a lot of media coverage with Broadreach PR involved, including the major Maine TV stations. Next year will feature some new elements.

b. Christmas By the Sea

Karen said this event is in transition from the Chamber and was being produced now through a partnership between the CDBG and the Town. A group of 6 citizens have stepped forward to help, making a team of 7 including Karen, two from the CDBG and the rest community volunteers. Karen said planning is going well and that the challenge would be securing sponsors.

6. Updates

a. Other Team updates

b. Redzone

Redzone Wireless had scheduled their opening for the following week.

c. Lyman-Morse

Lyman-Morse recently moved their canvas shop to an upper floor of the Wayfarer facility. A tour of the Thomaston boatyard is planned for October.

d. Report on Camden International Film Festival

e. CIFF clip about students' experience in Camden

Karen showed a short video from CIFF's workshop in June.

f. Community Institute on Economics Oct 22nd

7. Public Comments/Questions

8. Adjourn