



Discover the Jewel of the Maine Coast

Downtown Network Board – Meeting Minutes January 14, 2015

PRESENT: Co-Chair Oscar Verest, Co-Chair Deb Dodge, John Arnold, Paul Cavalli, Staci Coomer, Dave Jackson, Cindy Lampley, Robin McIntosh, Meg Quijano, Amy Rollins, Lowrie Sargent, Town Manager Pat Finnigan and Code Enforcement Officer Steve Wilson. Don White, Camden Select Board liaison.

ABSENT: Erick Anderson, Bernice Berger, Ellis Cohn, Flint Decker, Jill Lang, Jennifer Temple and Jamie Weymouth.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am.

2. Approval of Downtown Network Board Minutes of December 10, 2014

Dave Jackson made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 10th, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Deb Dodge. It was approved by a vote of 10 - 0 - 1 (John Arnold abstaining).

3. Structure of the Downtown Network Board

Oscar Verest, Deb Dodge, and Pat Finnigan outlined a potential organizational structure for the Downtown Network Board, aligned with the national Main Street program. They recapped the purpose of the DNB as providing the primary leadership for the downtown. They noted that in assuming this role, it's important for members to be able to use their time most efficiently and contribute their specific areas of interest and expertise. In doing so, they said that it's essential to adopt a structure that will advance the priorities of the Board and provide leadership across the various areas that DNB projects cover.

The Main Street program, as they described, sets in place a three-way partnership between the Town, businesses and residents. Developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation 25 years ago and tested in communities around the US, the structure is based on the four pillars of organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring, with committees formed around each area. The committees are essentially task-oriented, bringing people to the table with specific skill sets to help with projects that fall into these areas.

They said that if Camden were to adopt the Main Street model, a structure would be put in place whereby people from each of the "pillar committees" would be part of the overall steering committee (Downtown Network Board). For example, rather than have all of the CEDAC members and CDBG executive committee serve on the Downtown Network Board there could be a few representatives. In addition it could include other members who bring specific skill sets, and others who represent various sectors of the community such as the harbor, pathways, and others. The committee structure will involve more citizens, broaden the base of support for the downtown, and complete the partnership between the Town,

businesses and residents. This would reduce the number members on the Downtown Network Board from the current 22, but some members of the DNB could be involved on one of the “pillar committees.”

DNB members discussed various aspects of the structure and roles of the committees, and talked over how representatives would be appointed to the steering committee (Downtown Network Board) and the task committees: Promotions, Design, and Economic Restructuring. Pat, Oscar, and Deb asked if they are on the right track in pursuing this structure, and committee members responded that they were. It was decided that Oscar, Deb and Pat should continue their work and bring back a specific proposed structure to the next Downtown Network Board meeting.

John Arnold made a motion to commit to starting down the road to form a board based on the four pillars of the Main Street program, and to proceed as discussed. Cindy Lampley seconded the motion. There was continued discussion by the board. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Workplan /Goals for 2015

The list of priorities for projects of the Downtown Network Board along with goals were distributed for review prior to the next meeting.

5. Updates & Questions

Karen Brace gave a report on progress with Winterfest and on press received to date. She noted that local residents had stepped forward to volunteer for the committee and that broadening the scope of participation had made Winterfest a broader community effort.

Don White gave a report on Opera House programming, saying that a movie series had been launched to take place on upcoming Saturdays. He noted that the Opera House had received a grant for \$20,000 for a permanent screen and projector.

6. Public Comments/Questions

There were no public comments.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Downtown Network Board will be held February 11, 2015 in the WSCR.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary