

Downtown Network Board
Meeting Notes
May 18, 2016

WHO:

Present: Co-Chair Oscar Verest, Dave Jackson, Cindy Lampley, Robin MacIntosh, Leamon Scott, Matt Storin, Don White

Absent: Tia Anderson, Paul Cavalli, Deb Dodge, Tom Peaco, Meg Quijano

Staff: Karen Brace, Pat Finnigan

MEETING PURPOSE:

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

KEY THINGS DISCUSSED:

The notes from the April meeting were accepted (motion and second by Paul Cavalli and Robin McIntosh).

Deb Dodge is terming off the Downtown Network Board. There will be a new representative from CEDAC to share leadership responsibilities with Oscar who represents the Camden Area Business Group.

Leamon Scott and Karen briefed the group on the recent Maine Downtown Center Annual Conference in Bar Harbor and presented highlights of the program, including the new approach of transformational strategies to reduce the "silo" effect between teams.

Lack of housing for workers was briefly discussed, as was the AirBnB issue which has been a topic of the Lodging Group of the CABG and the Planning Board. Members talked over the effect on the community of temporary vs. permanent residents.

Focus for the DNB:

The group decided to make the public landing project its main focus. Dave Jackson described how Harbor Park had been rejuvenated, the public bond process, and how the community was mobilized around making it happen. Paul spoke about a public/private venture in Gardiner that had been successful. The plans for the Public Landing will be a topic of the next meeting.

Members were urged to attend the June Town Meeting as well as the Tannery Community Meeting on June 20th.

Discussion of next meeting.

Adjourn.

(The June meeting was cancelled due to Town Meeting coinciding.)