



**Town of Camden**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the**  
**Downtown Network Board**  
**September 9, 2013**  
**3:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Co-Chair Oscar Verest, Co-Chair Peter Gross, Pete Brown, Martin Cates, Dave Jackson, Barrie Pribyl, Meg Quijano, Staci Coomer, Lowrie Sargent, Town Manager Pat Finnigan, Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Wilson and Development Director Brian Hodges.

Guests: Don White, Camden Select Board, Nancy Laite, RALA program

**ABSENT:** Erick Anderson, Rick Bates, Bernice Berger, Ellis Cohn, Deb Dodge, Samantha Hill, Janis Kay, Jill Lang, Sue Michaud, Liz Valente and Kipp Wright.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

2. **Approval of Board Minutes**

Pete Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Peter Gross seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

3. **Co-Chair Discussion**

Peter Gross said that since he is no longer Chair of CEDAC, perhaps there should be a change in the Co-Chair position for the Downtown Network Board. After some discussion, it was decided that Gross would continue.

4. **Historic Preservation grant for Library – letter of support**

Brian Hodges explained that the designation as a Maine Downtown Network community has qualified Camden to apply for a historic preservation grant to repair two steps at the upper library entrance. He said he is working with the Library's development director and that a grant for \$15,000 would be submitted on September 13th. The group noted that this is a significant benefit stemming from the new National Historic Landmark designation. Hodges asked for letters of support from board members.

Pete Brown made a motion to provide a letter of support from the Downtown Network Board for the Historic Preservation grant the library. Meg Quijano seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

**5. TIF funds – update/follow up from Select Board**

Brian updated the group about the recommendations that had been forwarded from the Downtown Network Board to CEDAC, and then on to the Select Board, asking that currently available TIF funds be dedicated toward the repair of the downtown dam. He reported that the Select Board had voted unanimously to accept this recommendation and that the project is on a timeline to be completed this fall.

**6. Upper floor spaces in the Downtown**

Meg Quijano said that Lowrie Sargent would be attending an upcoming meeting of the Camden Downtown Business Group to speak about second floor spaces in the downtown area. Lowrie talked to the group about access and code issues, explaining that the Planning Board first needs to know what businesses want to use the second floors for before considering code changes that might encourage those spaces to be filled. Parking restrictions are an area that will be looked at, Sargent said. This work could feed into CEDAC's priority of establishing incubator space for entrepreneurs. Sargent said that Thursday the 19th was the date of the CDBG meeting where he would begin this dialogue with store owners.

**7. Consideration of Town site to post photos and other press material**

Brian Hodges recapped the steps that the Downtown Business Group's marketing committee is taking toward establishing priorities for marketing Camden's downtown. He reported that they had created a list of photos and video that could be housed on the Town of Camden's site, along with facts about Camden for use by the press.

Members of the Board had questions such as who would act as a clearinghouse for posting the photographs, and whether there would be sufficient web space for storage of high-resolution images. Hodges said these issues are being looked at. Martin Cates spoke about featuring some images and video that would appeal to the younger set.

**8. Community meeting September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Hodges said the next community meeting would be held at the middle school on Monday the 16th to show concept plans for the Riverwalk and Public Landing. He encouraged Downtown Network Board members to attend. Hodges said that the most controversial elements such as railings and the bridge would be considered separately from the overall Public Landing plan.

**9. Rural active living assessment tool/active community designation**

Nancy Laite talked about the Rural Active Living Assessment (RALA) that would be completed this fall, and asked for volunteers from the group to walk around town and collect data. Nancy said that Jane Lefleur would be holding a training on how to perform the assessment. She noted that the data collected could be used at a later time if a grant opportunity came along related to recreational or pedestrian improvements.

**10. Public Comments/Questions**

David Jackson updated the group on the Mini Maker Fair at the Library.

Donald White spoke about the Midcoast Transit Committee project and gave dates of upcoming meetings. He said the group is working toward providing the Select Board with a recommendation.

**11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Downtown Network Board will be held October 21.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary