

For Immediate Release

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Town of Camden selects Lachman team for Camden Downtown Master Plan

The Town of Camden has selected the team lead by Lachman Architects & Planners of Portland to develop the Camden Downtown Master Plan. The Downtown is a vital part of Camden's economy. In September, the Camden Select Board authorized using \$20,000 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund to hire a consulting firm to develop a Master Plan for the Downtown to ensure it continues to thrive.

The Town received proposals from eight firms. A review team comprised of Camden Town Manager Pat Finnigan, Development Director Brian Hodges, Town Planner Steve Wilson, Executive Director Dan Bookham of the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce, John Arnold of Camden's Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee, and Barrie Pribyl of the Camden Downtown Business Group reviewed and scored each of the submissions and unanimously recommended that the Town select the Lachman team. The Camden Select Board will vote on a proposed contract in November.

"We are very excited to have a team of this caliber working with our community to develop a Downtown Master Plan", Town Manager Finnigan said. "Their depth of experience, qualifications, and commitment to working with the community to accomplish this important project made them the top choice." In addition to Denis Lachman, the team includes Rodney Lynch AICP, Regina Leonard Landscape Architecture & Design, and Michael Sabatini of Landmark Corporation. Together this team brings over a hundred years of combined experience. Most recently, they were responsible for the successful completion of the Waldoboro Downtown Master Plan as well as the Thomaston Streetscape and Downtown Façade Improvement Project. "Camden's downtown is known for its compactness and vitality. Our charge, and challenge, is to help identify barriers to achieving its next level of success. We are delighted for the opportunity to work with such a vibrant Town" said Denis Lachman, Principal of Lachman Architects & Planners.

The work plan and schedule for the Camden Downtown Master Plan includes performing site reviews, identifying alternative revenue sources, conducting public meetings, and recommending strategies that will help Camden move toward having a sustainable downtown that includes year round jobs. A final plan will be completed on or before March 30, 2012. "While this is an aggressive timeline to complete a plan of this scope, we were impressed with Lachman's abilities and the team's track record," said Brian Hodges, Director of the Camden Development Office. "We are proud of our downtown but also understand the necessity of having a clear and defined business plan to ensure its continued vibrancy and success."

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