

Town of Camden
Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee

Monday, May 20, 2013 at 5:30 PM

Tucker Room, Camden Opera House

Members: Peter Gross, Pete Brown, Meg Quijano, Deb Dodge, Rick Bates,
Ellis Cohn

Liaisons: Brian Hodges, Martin Cates, Lowrie Sargent, Robin McIntosh

Guests: Camden Police Chief Randy Gagne, Public Works Director Rick
Seibel

Absent: Kipp Wright

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes from 04/29/2013 meeting
 - Motion by Pete Brown, second by Deb Dodge, unanimous.

2. Tactical urbanism – temporary, limited area downtown improvements
 - Deb refreshed the group on the concept as discussed at last meeting....started in cities, bottom up/grass roots efforts to change landscape in rural areas that have become urbanized. Could be a good way to test out recommendations in Downtown Master Plan.
 - Peter Gross continued how we could temporarily look at the French & Brawn intersection such as installing a bumpout, reduce lanes to 2, create a landscaped area, reduced parking...see if it works before spending \$ to make permanent. Robin suggested painting something visual in the road.
 - Chief Gagne and Rick Seibel commented that planters were tried in the past but were considered “fixed deadly objects” and bumpouts create difficulties for snow removal. Peter Gross mentioned that planters could be placed in a row to direct vehicles around but Rick cautioned about state right of way. Lowrie added the way it is now is hazardous to pedestrians.
 - Pete Brown mentioned how the Downtown Master Plan has a number of ideas. Rick is aware of it but not in great detail. Deb also mentioned the idea of back-in angled parking and Rick indicated paint striping would need to be changed. Peter Gross suggested changing roads to one way but realizes that is more long term. Chief Gagne expressed concern about vehicles backing in due to possibly hitting pedestrians. Peter Gross reminded that it creates a safer environment for children due to doors blocking access to road. Brian reminded the group that it was akin to parallel parking but only done ½ way. He’ll also provide the Maine Dept of Transportation memo in the Downtown Master Plan to Rick as it explains their walk through and reaction to changes.

- Rick liked the temporary approach because it will require us to have conversations early with Maine DOT regarding Route 1. He responded to Pete Brown that railroad ties and woodchips, for example, wouldn't be considered fixed deadly object because they would be low enough. Chief Gagne expressed caution about items that can easily be moved.
 - Brian suggested that we come up with items to consider implementing and present them to Maine DOT. A subcommittee consisting of Deb Dodge, Jane Lafleur, a downtown business owner recruited by Meg Quijano, Rick, Chief Gagne, and Brian will come up with a suggested area and temporary items.
 - Lowrie suggested we consider some type of modification by the tour bus dropoff at the Village Green. Robin suggested we also incorporate Dan Burden's Walkability Workshop recommendations. Ellis asked Chief Gagne if there were problem areas he felt should be focused and he replied with fender bends with vehicles backing out, Reny's crosswalk, post office, and all downtown crosswalks because vehicles block visibility. Pete Brown added bumpouts would also help with traffic flow.
3. TIF funds – discussion of project selection(s)
- Peter Gross indicated this was a big discussion topic at the prior week's Downtown Network Board meeting and asked Brian to recap it. The projects suggested and action items are:
 - i. Opera House project – Kerry Hadley is working on it
 - ii. Dam/waterfall – Ross Parker is working on it
 - iii. Downtown Wi-Fi – Brian is attempting to contact Susan Howland at Wayfarer first.
 - Rick Bates suggested that when contact is made to also discuss their reaction to making amenities available to anyone at cost. Would there be a way for us to improve those too so they're available for all visiting boaters. Peter Gross asked how many places in Maine have amenities such as showers open to any boaters. Rick and Robin responded there are few as most are private.
 - Martin expressed it was important to have the conversation and give Wayfarer an opportunity to say yes or no. Rick offered to join Brian when discussing with Susan, and this was affirmed by CEDAC.
 - Martin asked what the anticipated timing was for using TIF funds. Brian indicated it would be best to commit the funds before November if we were looking at establishing a TIF for the Knox Mill area. Peter Gross suggested we target June 17 for CEDAC to make a decision so a recommendation could be made to the Select Board in July. He continued that there are other funds available to be allocated from the TIFs and if we spend the current funds on a

project, we could conceivably dedicate the remaining funds to the Opera House. Brian reminded the committee that while the dam is also on the TIF list, the Wi-Fi project is not.

- Meg expressed that repairing the dam and waterfall is not only good for the town but is also good for our visitors because it is an amenity we promote. Rick expressed concerned the \$30,000 TIF funds may not be enough to repair what is necessary. Robin wondered if it could be funded privately.

4. Public comment /questions on agenda items - none

5. Adjourn – 7:00PM

NOTE: Downtown Network Board will meet Monday 06/10 3:30PM
The next CEDAC meeting is 06/17 (06/24 is a community meeting)