

The Community Development Advisory Committee  
Wendy Rose, Chair 2022  
Jean de Bellefeuille, Chair 2023  
Annual Report - 2022

The Community Development Advisory Committee provides advice to the Select Board regarding community development (initiatives) and activities. Primary guidance for the committee is the town Comprehensive Plan with specific details coming through the Town Planner, Jennifer Curtis. (At the end of the year 2022, Jennifer left her position for another opportunity. We look forward to working with the new staff person once they get underway.)

The projects the committee addressed in 2022:

#### Paddle Put-In

CDAC researched a possible access to Merrymeeting Bay for non-powered boat launching that is significantly closer than the town boat launch at Philip Mailly Park. It is about 3 miles from the park launch to the bay, while from the proposed put-in on the Abagadasset River, the distance is less than a mile. (Our initial investigation started in the Autumn of 2021 and identified several favorable spots.)

CDAC communicated with CMP for sites on CMP property. CMP was amenable to paddle put-in use. The committee then contacted owners of abutting property with the majority responding negatively.

The committee plans to research alternatives to the Abagadasset option at a future date. (We have also asked the Comprehensive Planning Committee to include the development of an Open Space Plan in the new Comprehensive Planning document due in 2024.)

#### Solar Source for municipal electricity

After a great deal of research, public meetings, and informational articles, CDAC recommended a Power Purchase Agreement with ReVision Energy to provide solar electricity for the town's electric needs. The final decision of the Select Board was to reject this proposal with a vote of 2 yes, 3 no. The Select Board chose another source for solar power which was to go in effect in November, 2022.

#### Waterfront Park, Trail Building

The 20 acre Waterfront Park property is a special focus of the CDAC. The projected installment of a new paddle put-in for 2022 had to be postponed because of the extreme increase in bids for the work. Instead, we turned our attention to upgrading the trails throughout the property. With assistance from Dr. Ellie Grodin, our team worked on identifying and eliminating brown tail moth infestations before the nests hatched. We then had a volunteer workday grooming and marking three trails throughout the parcel. Many thanks to the Public Works Department for

helping with the trails and to our team of volunteers who did the work. In addition, Hillary Olson built two new benches for the Cathance River Trails, which have been installed.

#### Business Directory

CDAC addressed the Business Directory that had been established in 2018 and only sporadically maintained. The committee evaluated the listings, contacted the business owners to validate and update their listings, updated those listings, deleted those no longer doing business and authored the document “SOP Bowdoinham Business Directory”, which contains procedures and instructions to maintain the Business Directory. The committee expedited some improvements to the business categories, generated a business directory export program and trimmed the directory. There are approximately 80 businesses in the directory.

#### New Resident and New Business packets

50 welcome packets for new businesses and 50 packets for new residents have been assembled and are ready to be used in the town office.

#### CMP TIF

CDAC will be proposing a vote to extend the CMP TIF for the final 10 years that is allowed during Town Meeting, 2023. Articles and public meetings throughout the spring will explain the reasons for this extension.

#### Comprehensive Plan Update

The action items identified as belonging to CDAC were reviewed and the open items will carry into 2023. This is a partial list:

- Attract complimentary businesses into town
- Support existing businesses and community groups
- Identify and publish resources and education for starting and running a business
- Research and provide recommendations on town infrastructure
- Update plans for TIF funds
- Support Waterfront Development
- Research PFAS and report findings

Respectfully submitted Jean de Bellefeuille, Chair; CDAC members: Ian McConnell, Lee Parker, Wendy Rose, John Scribner.