**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, September 5, 2023 AT 6:30PM**

**Kendall Room**

**Present: Wendy Rose, Lee Parker, Jean de Bellefeuille, John Scribner, Ian McConnell**

**Yvette Meunier**

**Guest: Jeremy Cluchey; Michael Smith (by Zoom)**

# Call to order/determine quorum

Jeremy Cluchey gave an update on the Merrymeeting Trail:

* Formation of a volunteer group to look at this to see feasibility
* 4 towns entered into an Interlocal Government to create an entity to liase with the railway
* “Capital to Coast” Trail System
* 10+ years of bits of progress but nothing significant
* Department of Transportation has put into place a comprehensive trail plan for the state of Maine.
* Rail always has the ability to convert any part of the trail to rail.
* RUAC was convened for the section of rail that goes through Bowdoinham
  + Considered cost and feasibility of returning passenger service between Brunswick and Bangor, price of a ticket would be $116 one way; essentially prohibitive.
  + Recommendation of this group to the Commissioner; to use trail for primarily non-motorized use, with several sections possibly being used by motorized vehicle (such as ATV)
  + Jeremy thinks that letters from groups in municipalities would be very helpful. He will alert CDAC when it is prime time to send a letter.

Merrymeetingtrail.org and sign up for our emails – and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/merrymeetingtrail!

* Review/approve meeting minutes from 7/5/23 – accepted
* Update on Shoreline Stabilization funding; 2 years ago a grant was submitted Land and Conversation grant (decision should come in October); Boat Launch minus floats is pretty much done; parking lot will be graded but not paved by Celebrate Bowdoinham – people will be able to see something perhaps a sign – next spring the wooden docks and the ADA dock (plastic) will be put in place. Would be a good opportunity

Jean is asking committee to review the For New Business on the website – to review it carefully

* Add items/rearrange agenda
* Old Business

DOT grants update – sidewalk extension (YM) Yvette reported on sidewalk plan (on other side of the road and extend it all the way to Post Road. Proposal submitted by July 15; will let us know in January. Looks encouraging.

* 1. Update on MCOG Strategic Plan for Artists, Artisans, and Craft People (LP) – will report at October meeting.

**V)** New Business

A. Attracting new businesses to Bowdoinham – open discussion

Website additions under “Local Business” - Jean is asking committee to review the For New Business on the website – to review it carefully. He will send a link.

B. Crosswalk prototype at Rt-24 and Rt-125 – survey has been up for a month will be leaving it up for another month

Improvements

Detractions

Recommendations

* 1. Sidewalk extension from Rt-24 to Mailly Park
  2. YM proposed applying for planning grant (rolling application) – will update the date and return to us in October – will discuss and put together a proposal for a grant.

**VI)** Determine next meeting and agenda

Currently scheduled for 10/3/23, Kendall Rm, 6:30 PM

**VII)** Adjourn Meeting