**CDAC Meeting Minutes**

**September 6, 2020**

**Members Present:** Wendy Rose, Jean de Bellfeuille, Jenn Curtis. Lee is still recovering and hopes to be on hand in October. John was on a mercy mission for a friend.

**Business Directory.** Jean reported on the latest developments. He has been working with Todd Woofenden to clean up the categories. The changes are minor and should be easy to do. A couple of businesses have been added. We are at approximately 76 businesses in the directory. The town has been featuring small clusters of businesses on their home page and on the business directory page. Jenn will make sure that these rotate regularly.

Wendy recently interviewed 2 businesses for the next newsletter—Counterpoint Bread and Healing Rivers Acupuncture.

**Waterfront Park.** Hillary Olson built 2 new benches for the Cathance River Trails. They have been installed. Wendy will send her a thank you. The paddle put-in will need to be done in stages starting next year because of the huge jump in costs.

**New business and resident packets**. All the materials should be ready for assembly sometime in September. Wendy and Jean will do the collating.

**Review of CDAC’s Mission and Tasks**

We went down the list of items that CDAC was assigned from the Comprehensive Plan that was developed about 8 years ago. Please see the next page for our assessment of what we’ve done and what still needs to be addressed. Jean raised a new topic we should look into: PFAS contamination. Wendy will check with BCDI to see if they have been talking with farmers about this. Jenn will check on the latest with DEP testing.

We also talked about the lack of affordable housing as a major issue. Jenn has gotten several inquiries about the property that is for sale on Main Street, but there haven’t been any serious second steps. BCDI is co-hosting a community conversation about housing, but I haven’t been able to find the date for that event.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 in person at Coombs Building.

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| **CDAC Task List** | | | | |
| # | Task | Comments | Done | More? |
| 1. | Support and promote: eco, agri, and historic tourism | Open Farm and Studio day; Farmer’s Market promotion; Farm poster; Art event press releases, etc. This is an on-going category. Future: Historic District formation? | X | X |
| 2. | Develop brand and branding strategy | The town and local organizations have done a good job with creating a recognizable brand. Our town signs are distinctive. MAC. Guild of Artisans and others have a consistent “look.” | X |  |
| 3. | Attract complimentary businesses into town and create a brochure | This is a task we haven’t really addressed in a long time. It could be our next project. |  | X |
| 4. | Info. Packet for new businesses | This should be done by Oct. 1 | X |  |
| 5. | Info. Packet for new residents | This should be done by Oct. 1 | X |  |
| 6./7. | Support existing businesses and community groups | This is on-going. There are business profiles, the business directory, one-on-one business counseling, community festivals, etc. | X |  |
| 8. | Resources and education for starting and running a business. | Resource guide for businesses, business counseling | X |  |
| 9. | Business workshops | These have been offered on a periodic basis and can always be available upon demand. | X |  |
| 10. | Plans for TIF funds | We have worked on the CMP TIF, extending the pipeline TIF, and will help next spring with extending the CMP TIF. | X | X |
| 11. | Infrastructure: wastewater, restrooms, sidewalks, bike lanes, parking | We did the wastewater study, the public restrooms are installed, the first phase of sidewalks is in, and there will be more parking on the waterfront. Bike lanes would be huge effort in concert with the Maine DOT. Jenn would like to tackle the next phase of sidewalks. | X | X |
| 12. | Communication infrastructure: internet, energy. | We brought internet access to the northern tier of the village. Center Point Rd./Abbagassett Rd. still need access. The town will source their energy from solar starting in Nov. | X | Center Point Rd.? |
| 13. | Village beautification | New flags installed, cannon park revived. Most of this is done by others. | X |  |
| 14. | Signage | The signs have held up remarkably well. | X |  |
| 15. | Implement the waterfront plan. | This is proceeding step by step. | X | X |
| 16. | Implement the walkable village plan | Jenn is going to turn her attention to the next phase of sidewalks. Funding sources need to be researched. Grant? Federal funds? Fee on building purchases? | X | X |
| 17. | Development and implementation of Merrymeeting Trail | DOT is going to assess our part of the trail system in the coming months. We may see big movement on this soon. | X | X |
| 18. | Participate in regional economic development efforts | Jenn has been going to regional COG meetings. | X |  |
| 19. | PFAS research | **This is new.** PFAS contamination will affect our farms and some water systems. It would be helpful to find out where the testing stands and what properties may be affected. |  | X |