

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 AT 6:30PM

### Kendall Room

**Present:** Jean DeBellefeuille (Chair), John Scribner (Vice Chair), Lee Parker, Ian McConnell (Secretary), Marty Szydowski, Yvette Meunier (Staff), Kate Cutko (Bowdoinham Library)

- I. Meeting called to order with requirements for a Quorum met
- II. Agenda accepted
- III. Meeting minutes from 9/2/2025 approved as submitted
- IV. New Business
  - a. Story Walk for the Cathance Meadow Trail – Kate Cutko, Bowdoinham Public Library
    - i. The Town of Bowdoinham has the opportunity to install a StoryWalk on one of the Cathance Meadow trails after the Town of Richmond decided not to install it after receiving a grant through the SNAP Education program at Mid Coast Hospital. All of the materials have been purchased and paid for and are currently sitting in Richmond.
    - ii. Bowdoinham has a history of putting up story walks for years but previous efforts were very low budget and have not lasted for long.
    - iii. Proposal is to use the Orange Cathance Meadow trail for the StoryWalk. There would be 16-18 small kiosks where the book pages would be displayed
    - iv. Town is willing to install them through the Recreation Dept and the Bowdoinham Public Library would display a new book 3-4 times per year.
    - v. CDAC voted unanimously (5-0) to move ahead immediately with StoryWalk installation on Orange Cathance Meadow Trail.
- V. Old business
  - a. Waterfront Pavilion
    - i. At the Celebrate Bowdoinham CDAC table there was lots of enthusiasm around the pavilion. Sticker voting highlighted two favorite design styles and different ideas for pavilion use were captured on paper. Biggest question from the community was around cost and how to pay for it.
    - ii. Next step in the design process is to meet with key community stakeholders for more detailed input with a focus on developing a shared vision for how the pavilion can be used to help spur local businesses and strengthen our community.
    - iii. CDAC agreed to have public meetings with stakeholders per the following schedule:
      1. November – Farmers
      2. January – Artisans/Craftspeople
      3. February – General Public

- iv. Committee discussed the inherent tradeoffs between building a simpler and less expensive design that may be done sooner versus a more elaborate structure that could serve more uses but ultimately take longer to implement. This will have to be balanced throughout the input and design process.

- b. CDAC Recruitment

- i. Ian will invite two community members who expressed interest in potentially joining CDAC to our November meeting.

VI. Staff update

- a. Yellow building/BRIC grant – update on RFP

- i. Acorn Engineering will be doing evaluation work, with goal for contract to be signed by end of October.
- ii. The will assess site, propose mitigation strategies related to flood risk, and provide preliminary designs for new/expanded structure.
- iii. Consultant will give presentation to the public on assessment and preliminary designs for 3 different potential uses.

- b. Town Hall

- i. Renovations should be finished within the next month or so.
- ii. The Town is looking for input on how to market the Town Hall.

- c. Merrymeeting Trail

- i. On September 8 the Town submitted a no-match grant application with the Rural Tribal Assistance Pilot Program for preliminary design and final engineering for 8.6 miles of rail to trail conversion from downtown Bowdoinham to downtown Richmond. Requested amount was \$750,000. Awards will be announced on November 28, 2025.

- d. Cathance Meadow Trail

- i. On September 25 the Town applied for a Maine Trails Program grant to improve 360 feet of the existing blue trail in the Cathance Meadows Trail System along with the creation of 220 feet of new trail, both surfaced with gravel and reclaim top dress, leading to a 20' x 20' observation platform. An 18" culvert is also included which would improve drainage in a low area. An existing foundation on site would be restored and fitted with a ramp, handrails, and guardrails to create a new accessible viewing area. Updated trail maps and five wayfinding signs are included to enhance navigation and overall user experience. Awards will be announced on November 1, 2025.

VII. Other business

- a. Town Select Board/Committee Coordination

- i. Idea was raised of having a meeting in early 2026 after the new Select Board is in place that includes the Select Board and all Town Committees to encourage better communication and coordination of all Town initiatives.
- ii. All CDAC members supported this idea. Yvette will discuss with Town Manager and Select Board for their consideration and potential action.

VIII. Next CDAC meeting is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

IX. Meeting Adjourned