

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 AT 6:30PM

Meeting Held at Kendall and via ZOOM

Present: Jean DeBellefeuille (Chair), Marty Szydowski (Vice Chair), Ian McConnell (Secretary), Finn Smith, Wayne Sanford, Lee Parker, Yvette Meunier (Staff)

Absent: None

- I. Meeting called to order with requirements for a Quorum met
- II. Introductions
 - Committee welcomed new member to CDAC, Wayne Sanford, resident of Bowdoinham since 1977 and Treasurer of the Board for the Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative (BCDI).
- III. Presentation from Maine Arts Commission (Danielle Moriarty)
 - Danielle shared a powerpoint presentation titled, “Art at the Heart of Community: Integrating Culture into Public Spaces”
 - Maine Arts & Culture sector a \$2.5 billion industry, 2.7% of GDP and 2.9% of workforce
 - Danielle presented on the impact of arts and culture on community and economic development, sharing examples from various Maine towns, including Portland, Belfast, Waterville, Biddeford, Van Buren, and Norway. She highlighted how arts investments can transform communities, create economic returns, and foster community pride. The presentation concluded with tips for integrating arts into community planning and information on the Maine Arts Commission's Creative Communities grant program which was launched last year and designed for towns like Bowdoinham.
 - CDAC discussed the physical assets we have in town for potential arts projects—including the yellow building, Town Hall, and the FHC building—along with lots of energy to harness from local artists and craftspeople.
- IV. Public Comment – none offered
- V. Meeting minutes from 2/4/2026 approved as submitted
- VI. Absenteeism on CDAC
 - William Small was appointed as member of CDAC in September 2025 but has never attended a meeting.
 - Motion passed unanimously to remove William Small from CDAC.
- VII. Staff update
 - Riverview House

- Second public meeting completed last week with options presented to the public. Public sentiment overwhelmingly NOT to move forward with renovation or construction of a new building.
- No further action to be taken by CDAC – consultant will submit final report to the Select Board.
- Merrymeeting Trail
 - Yvette to apply this week for Congressional earmarks through the offices of Chellie Pingree, Susan Collins, and Angus King.
 - Plan to include \$1,330,000 request to support the preliminary design and engineering for a 19.7-mile segment of the Merrymeeting Trail from Bowdoinham to Gardiner with no match required.

VIII. Next steps for Waterfront Pavilion

- Committee agreed to create a report outlining requirements and specifications based on stakeholder feedback provided during recent CDAC meetings, including size, key design aspects, utilities, and functionality. Each member will provide comments on a shared document before the next meeting.
- Goal is to use report to inform final design provided by USDA, which can then be translated into buildable plans.
- Funding for pavilion construction yet to be identified.

IX. Discussion about CDAC Projects to take on this year

- Committee discussed projects to take on this year and agreed on the pavilion development and moving forward the Merrymeeting Trail as two high priority areas. Members are also interested in further exploring grant opportunities for public Arts & Culture projects.

X. Next CDAC meeting is scheduled for April 7th at 6:30 pm

XI. Meeting Adjourned