

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:30PM

Kendall Room

Present: Jean DeBellefeuille (Chair), John Scribner (Vice Chair), Ian McConnell (Secretary), Yvette Meunier (Staff), Robin Riendeau (Banana Banners)

Absent: Lee Parker

- I. Meeting called to order with requirements for a Quorum met
- II. Agenda accepted
- III. Meeting minutes from 5/6/2025 approved as submitted
- IV. Old business
 - a. CORA unveil final design
 - Robin Riendeau of Banana Banners shared final designs for all of the signs that will be installed at the waterfront parks. The Selectboard has already reviewed them with only minor changes.
 - CDAC enthusiastically supports installation of these final designs.
 - RFP has already been released for manufacture and installation of the signs which will need to be done quickly given deadline of the CORA grant.
 - b. Mural –artist selection
 - Committee discussed merits of the two finalists for the Maily bathhouse mural after receiving reply from finalist Michael Branca regarding his experience completing outdoor murals.
 - The present CDAC members voted unanimously (3-0) to award the mural contract to Erica Sedler given her significant experience doing outdoor murals, her very strong portfolio, and her willingness to touch up the mural should vandalism occur at any time.
 - The Town will reach out to applicants to notify them of the results and move forward in completing contract with Erica Sedler. Plan is for mural to be completed by August 31st.
 - c. Business Meeting/Pavillion Stakeholder Meeting
 - Representative from USDA will attend next CDAC meeting to provide more context regarding development and design process for the waterfront park pavilion.
 - CDAC is planning for public meeting in October to solicit input on pavilion uses and design.

d. Gas pump warrant article

- CDAC discussed whether or not to offer a recommendation at Town meeting regarding the gas pump warrant.
- During this discussion, town members Logan and Ashleigh Feeney shared that they are in the process of buying the Bowdoinham Country Store and will be closing on it in the coming weeks. They also shared that Doug Tourtillotte, owner of the current gas pumps, is again strongly considering installing new gas pumps across from the country store.
- Given the uncertainty regarding plans for these business downtown, CDAC elected not to offer a recommendation at Town meeting regarding the gas pump warrant.

e. Merrymeeting Trail update

- LD29, the bill supporting the implementation of the Merrymeeting Trail, last week was convincingly passed by the Maine House of Representatives and should be signed into law by the Governor in the coming weeks.
- CDAC will start considering logistical and financial plans for implementation of the trail. The Trail will be developed piecemeal by the Department of Transportation, and Bowdoinham will hopefully be at the forefront of implementation.
- CDAC requested regular quarterly updates from the Town on TIF account balances to help with financial planning for this and other competing initiatives.

V. Staff update

- VPI draft from Gorrill Palmer will be completed in the coming weeks.
- Dirt and landscaping work at the waterfront park will tentatively be completed by July 4th. Paving will not be done until next year.
- Town is considering a large septic project to support the bath houses in both parks as well as the yellow house.
- Town has received numerous benches and picnic tables that will be installed at the waterfront.

VI. Next CDAC meeting is scheduled for July 1st at 6:30pm

VII. Meeting Adjourned