

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2024

Meeting conducted via Zoom

Present: Jean DeBellefeuille (Chair), John Scribner (Vice Chair), Ian McConnell (Secretary), Lee Parker, Yvette Meunier

Absent: None

- I. Meeting called to order with requirements for a Quorum met
- II. Meeting minutes from 9/3/24 and 10/15/24 accepted as written
- III. Old business
 - A. Next steps on Village Partnership Initiative
 - Results from online survey capturing community input are now posted on the Town website.
 - Town staff will meet with the consulting team to discuss survey results and public meeting feedback.
 - Town staff will discuss updated plans for sharing at a second public meeting in late December or early January.
 - Committee members asking if it is possible that some of the implementation work could be done in phases with 'low hanging fruit' addressed first.
 - B. Volunteer Appreciation Day
 - Discussion at Selectboard level of a potential Volunteer Appreciation day across Bowdoinham.
 - CDAC members didn't feel like it was necessary to have specific recognition for the volunteer members of our committee.
 - One idea that was raised was that it may be meaningful to have a member of the Selectboard join a CDAC meeting once yearly to foster better connections across Town governance.
 - C. CORA grant update
 - RFP closes 11/13. Staff will share a scoring sheet for CDAC members to complete to score the submissions. A follow up meeting via Zoom may be held in November to draft a recommendation to the Selectboard for their 11/26 meeting.
 - D. Mural update and next steps
 - Selectboard was not comfortable with the idea of paying for public art on a private building with questions regarding long-term maintenance and viability if property were ever to be sold.

- New proposal would be to install mural onto the Maily Bathhouse, starting with the wall facing Rt 24. Mural would be 120 square feet with budget of \$4,200 to the muralist (\$35/sq ft). With installation costs, total project budget is estimated at \$8,000.
- Updated proposal to Selectboard will be discussed at their 11/26 meeting.

IV. New business

A. Bowdoinham Country Store

- Country Store may be sold soon with potential buyer(s) already being engaged.
- There had been discussion of possible community cooperative ownership in the future, but that may now be tabled with a buyer emerging. There is a tentative meeting scheduled to discuss this on 11/13.
- Some concern was expressed by committee members over the way in which the Town has become involved in this process and how private business issues may be considered appropriately through the Town committee governance structure.
- Committee feels strongly about avoiding any appearance of the Town being involved inappropriately in private property transfer.
- Committee is open to providing any feedback to potential new owners in whatever way may be helpful in a transparent public process.

V. Next meeting and agenda

- A. Discussion of CDAC priorities from the approved Comp Plan tabled to next visit
- B. December meeting will include a kickoff meeting with the CORA consultant.

VI. Meeting adjourned

A true copy, attest.

Yvette Meunier DATE