

Minutes  
Economic Development Committee  
Town Manager's Office  
January 22, 2019  
4:30pm

Attendance:

Committee

Cody McEwen (Chair), Mike Madore, Gilda Stratton, John Davis (Town Manager),  
Jessica Masse

Councilors

Steve Golieb, Randy Jackson, Louis Pelletier

Public

Ailish Keating, Lucy Van Hook

Meeting called to order by Chair McEwen at 4:30pm.

I. Town of Millinocket Annual Survey 2018  
A. Review Survey Report

The committee reviewed the 2018 survey report and noted similar comments regarding the need for jobs in the community, support for the police/fire/ambulance services, and support for the library. On rated responses the committee determined that there was no significant change in respondents level of support on the towns efforts in economic development, as well as that aspects of economic development such as recreation and tourism, industry, beautification, and community programs continue to be perceived as beneficial to economic development.

New rated responses this year were to determine if a southern entrance to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument/Recreation Areas was desired, as well as if the community should take steps toward becoming an age friendly community. Both of these had a majority of respondents that agreed to some degree with these questions.

Items such as the comprehensive plan and downtown revitalization were topics brought up in the previous report and were present in this report as well. Improving infrastructure and the look of main street were suggested several times in the report. Comments displaying constructive criticism were present in this report as well and were received by the committee.

The committee will incorporate suggestions present in this report into discussions of town business.

II. CDBG Funding Project - Downtown Revitalization

The committee reviewed several applications for CDBG funding through the Maine Office of Community Development. Initial tasks to determine application eligibility for a letter of intent (LOI) for a Downtown Revitalization program were delegated. Chair McEwen, Manager Davis, Lucy Van Hook, and Jessica Masse will contact representatives of the Maine OCD and the school system for data that could be used in the application.

Based on suggestions from the 2017 and 2018 survey reports, the committee will focus on following items for downtown revitalization:

- Sidewalk Repair/ADA Compliance
- Electricity/Lighting improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park
- Public Bathroom Facility
- Trash/Recycle Containers
- Benches

The committee determined to update the manager and committee chair of findings to work on the LOI of the grant application and to reconvene at a later time to review draft materials before submitting to the council.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.