

Minutes
Economic Development Committee
Town Manager's Office
January 7th, 2020
5:00pm

Attendance:

Committee

Cody McEwen (Chair), Mike Madore, Gilda Stratton, John Davis (Town Manager), Ailish Keating (Northern Forest Center), Lucy Van Hook (Our Katahdin)

Public

Louis Pelletier, Randy Jackson

Meeting called to order by Chair McEwen at 5:00pm.

I. Review of prior meeting minutes.

No changes.

II. Update on Citizen's Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) grant.

Lucy updated the committee on our status with the grant. As a part of staff support, Lucy will be facilitating a committee for the workshop. Lucy, Cody, Ailish, and Rosie from MDF will sit on the workshop committee. The goal is to gather two or three more business owners from downtown to be on the committee as well.

A check from the grant program should be arriving soon for the town.

The manager asked if the reimbursement paperwork for Councilor Golieb's travel stipend was all set and Lucy confirmed that we were ok.

The workshop dates are set for Tuesday April 21st through Thursday the 23rd, ending with a presentation from the team at the council meeting.

III. Update on BikeMaine event.

Cody informed the committee that he and John would be having another meeting with Mike Smith and Josh Firmin on Monday and would have an update for the next committee meeting.

IV. Update on Comprehensive Plan.

Cody shared an email he received from William Harper about his upcoming visit to Millinocket during the council meeting for Thursday. He will present to the council an update on where the Comprehensive Plan stands, and a path for completion.

V. Update on Millinocket Annual Survey 2019.

Cody updated the committee that the survey was closed and the winner for the gift certificate was drawn today. The winner for the \$20 Angelos Gift Certificate is Mike Murphy.

There were roughly 100 entries into the survey for this year. The full report will be ready for the next committee meeting.

Randy asked if we can produce a follow up segment in the report for what has been accomplished from year's past. The committee agreed that this data would be good to share to the public for what progress has been made to their requests.

VI. Update on Community Development Block Grant and Downtown Revitalization.

Cody updated the committee with a Downtown Action Plan which will be a requirement of the grant program and the executive summary of the plan is a specific piece of the full application.

The Downtown Action Plan is compiled from data from the municipality, annual surveys, revitalization plans with our community partners, and input from the Katahdin Gazetteer vision and action plan. Cody let the committee know that if the committee approves this document as draft, he will edit the plan with additional data from the town manager and share a final draft with the committee via email. The plan would be up for a public hearing and adoption vote if the council decides to add the item to the January 23rd council meeting agenda. Cody also said he would bring up discussion at the council meeting on Thursday to inquire if the town would provide some portion of match to the \$75,000 grant requirement.

The committee requested some general edits to incorporate more language and materials from the recent CIRD grant application, to adjust the scope of work to be more general, and to make sure that connecting the parks on a walkable age friendly main street is a key focus. If we can use the grant as seed funding to accelerate small project wins instead of just trying to tackle all of the sidewalks in a first go, that will still be a win.

The next committee meeting is set for February 4th at 5:00pm in the Manager's Office.

Adjourned at 5:48pm.