

## Minutes- Sustainability Committee 4/13/2021

In attendance

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councilor Jane Danforth, Councilor Louis Pelletier, Brittany Grutter, Peter Jamieson, Interim Manager Richard Angotti

PUBLIC MEMBERS: Mike Madore, Gilda Stratton, Joe Clark, Jeff Campbell, Meagan Collins(Intern), Ralph Soucier, Lucy VanHook and Robert O'Brien

Via Zoom

Called to order at 10:02AM by Councilor Danforth in the absence of Committee Chair Golieb

1) As follow up to the recent Council meeting where approval to the Sustainability Committee to proceed was given, Lucy, Our Katahdin Community Development Director, spoke about the opportunity through the Forest Opportunity Roadmap of Maine (FOR/Maine) for technical assistance related to housing. She indicated that 10 communities in Maine are participating in this FOR/Maine program.

- Lucy also mentioned Our Katahdin is working with several partners and is looking at developing two prototypes of zero energy modular homes
- There is a need for a market analysis "of need" ... and Lucy could lend support to this local work with FOR/Maine

2) Robert O'Brien, Program Director, Maine Development Foundation, provided background information on the FOR/Maine program. <https://formaine.org/>

MDF is providing mill towns with economic development assistance. This initiative is specific to housing. They are offering a contract with a consultant to do either a housing study or site development (non- construction). It's up to the municipality to decide which one and is at NO COST. The requirement of the Town is to establish a steering committee to work with the Contractor. *(Note: conducting a housing study was chosen)*

- The decision to participate needs to be in sent via email no later than 4/15, with a list of steering committee members.
- The Committee brainstormed a list of potential steering committee members. It was suggested that at a minimum we include: a real estate agent, a housing lender or builder (who knows the finance side of building), and someone with local political experience (like a former town councilor)
- Interim Town Manager Angotti and Councilor Danforth will work together to establish a steering committee and email Robert no later than Thursday to meet the deadline.
- Robert will follow up with the steering committee. In May a statewide (online) orientation for the steering committee will be convened. The meeting will cover roles and expectations; and a snapshot of housing economics right now, and best development practices to consider.
- In total, the project will be about 6 months in duration.

### 3) Peddlers Hill Permit Discussion

- Concern about vendors setting up without seeking a permit at the Town Office first
- People on Peddlers Hill might not realize they need to purchase a permit.
- The fee is minimal – something like \$15 for 3 months along with a Maine License to sell
- No clear process/procedure in place
- Is there an enforcement mechanism or penalty?
  - Interim Manager Angotti stated that if Tom Malcolm (Public Safety Officer) doesn't recognize someone that is selling on the Hill, he'll stop and talk with them. Otherwise, there is no way to know if a permit has been obtained, or not.
- And, what exactly is okay to sell on the hill? What are the rules? Homemade, locally made or grown, etc?
  - Need clarification
- Maybe all that is needed is a sign that says: "Vending/Selling By permit only"
- It was mentioned that other communities allow farmers markets to be free or sit just on the outskirts of town. Want to attract business and enterprise.

Councilor Danforth asked Interim Town Manager Angotti to find out what the current process is. For example, what are the barriers to obtain a permit; who is currently on the list of approved vendors; what can be sold on the hill, etc. and bring that information to the next meeting. So, we can be clear on what needs to be addressed.

### 4) Food Security- Meagan Collins (Intern) No action taken. She'll send out the draft action plan for the Committee to review.

- Once we've all had a chance to look at the action plan, we can decide any next steps.
- Meagan is done at the end of this month. Everyone thanked her for her work and wished her well. She enjoyed her time here as well.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Councilor Danforth*