

**Rockland Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Meeting October 3, 2013**

**Minutes**

In attendance:

Joanne Billington, Member (Chair)  
George Terrien, Member  
John Jeffers, Member  
Robin McIntosh, PBRCC  
Steve Roberts, Member  
Tina Plummer, Member  
Erik Phenix, Ransom Consulting  
Lorain Francis, Rockland Main Street Inc.  
John Holden, Community Development Director, Rockland

Minutes from the October 3 meeting will be forthcoming.

J Holden began with the Community Development summary. He has offered for Council amendments to the City's two Tax Increment Financing Districts; Fisher Engineering and Downtown. The Committee expressed concern that the funds generated within the Downtown TIF District be used inside the TIF District. J Holden said he would share those sentiments with Council before the act on the Downtown amendment. In addition, there were questions about efforts to implement the Tillson Avenue District redevelopment. J Holden noted that there are many efforts underway, to encourage development, and the City will be working on surveying Winter and Tillson Street this winter.

J Holden noted that the Brownfield Program, in part, will help in the redevelopment of Tillson Avenue district. He introduced Erik Phenix from Ransom Consulting to update the Committee on those efforts.

E Phenix noted that three properties have agreed to and are in the midst of completing Phase I Environmental Assessments. He explained that pending the outcome of these assessments, Phase II assessments may be completed. J Holden noted that they hope to identify additional property owners that may wish to conduct Phase I Assessments. The date of December 19 was set for this meeting, to follow a REDAC meeting (REDAC at 4:00, Brownfields at 5:30).

A public information meeting will be held. The Committee discussed a date for this meeting and agreed that it can be held in conjunction with its December meeting.

R McIntosh reported on Chamber activities including highlighting the area in a TV show, the recent Made in Maine Show, and assisting with welcoming recent cruise ship visits.

L Francis updated on RMSI activities noting a positive summer season, the opening of the Ferry Terminal Park, and current plans for Festival of Lights. Distinctive Tile has moved into the Masonic Building. There is a good article on Rockland in the current issue of Downeast Magazine.

The Committee took time to brainstorm next steps following the presentation by Terry Dewann and Associates on the Camden Street Project. That presentation is planned, before City Council, on November 26, 4:00 PM. The following points were made:

- It is hoped that by implementing the principles in the Camden Street Project that it will demonstrate how such improvements enhance the tax base and reduce tax burden.
- Intent is to get information on the presentation into the public (press) before the meeting.
- J Holden will send out notice to the City's Comprehensive Planning Committee.
- (J Lafleur was not present) but Committee expect that FMM will note the date and time of this meeting on its web site and will send out notice of meeting

The meeting was adjourned