

**Rockland Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Meeting November 26, 2013**

**Minutes** In attendance:

Joanne Billington, Member (Chair)  
George Terrien, Member  
John Jeffers, Member  
Robin McIntosh, PBRCC  
Steve Roberts, Member  
Tina Plummer, Member  
Kyle Swan, Member  
Lorain Francis, Rockland Main Street Inc.  
Valli Geiger, Citizen  
John Holden, Community Development Director, Rockland

Minutes from the October 3 meeting were approved

Chamber report included sharing of retail sales data and discussion. Members were reminded of the Rockland Retail Trade Area Analysis previously provided. Additional discussion to follow at the February 2014 meeting.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to the Tillson Avenue (Downtown) Tax Increment Financing District. G Therrien asked for confirmation that the focus of the TIF still be on the Downtown. J Holden reiterated the emphasis given to the original intent, as discussed by Council and REDAC, that the focus of the TIF be on infrastructure investment in the Downtown. J Holden noted the changes to text that reflect that intent and reminded the Committee of the other primary change being in the term of the TIF from 25 to 30 years. J Billington wished to clarify and emphasize that a major effort of the TIF be on the attraction of new business to the Downtown and Tillson District. J Holden clarified that such emphasis is included in the “economic development program” within the TIF Development Program. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to Council that it proceed with the proposed amendment.

J Holden shared that he looks forward to bringing to REDAC projects and programs for 2014. He mentioned, as noted earlier, review of the City’s retail market and associated development as well as input from REDAC on application to the Maine Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. J Holden explained briefly this program and one focus on Downtown Revitalization (DTR). L Francis shared that RMSI has been consulted about future CDBG DTR applications. J Holden will brief REDAC in December on potential applications to CDBG.

The Chair then shared the following agenda topics for the next few Committee meetings. December will include briefing and input on CDBG applications as well as summary of recent Council Workshop on “west side” development. January will include additional input on CDBG applications as well as additional input from REDAC on other community economic development projects for 2014. February will include review of the Rockland Retail Trade Area Analysis.

The December meeting will be on December 19 at 4:00—5:00 PM. It will be followed by a public information meeting on the City Brownfield Program at 5:30

The meeting was adjourned and Members attended the presentation on the Camden Street Project presented by Friends of Midcoast Maine and Terry DeWan Associates.