

**Rockland Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Meeting December 19, 2013**

**Minutes by John Holden**

In attendance:

Joann Billington, Member (Chair)

George Terrien, Member

John Jeffers, Member

Staci Coomer, PBRCC

Steve Roberts, Member

Larry Pritchett, Mayor, representative of Rockland Main Street Inc.

John Holden, Community Development Director, Rockland

Minutes from the November 26 meeting were approved

Chair noted that Lorain Francis has taken new post and a search for her replacement underway. L Pritchett in attendance in part representing Rockland Main Street.

Staci Coomer thanked members of the Committee for inviting her attendance. She updated the Committee on recent Chamber events including a legislative briefing. She noted that the Chamber is now one of the largest chambers in Maine and is still adjusting from its merger. There are new board members and the entire chamber is reviewing how it serves both its large regional role while also serving local community needs.

The Committee discussed the completed reports on the Camden Street project. The Chair noted that it was a long project but a valuable piece of work. The Committee noted there are both short term and long term objectives and actions that may be taken as a result of the project and its reports. A motion was made, second, and unanimously approved that the Committee accept the final report and referenced associated documents. A second motion was made and unanimously approved that the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommend to City Council assert in principle its approval of the Camden Street Report and associated produce and request that the Economic Development and Advisory Committee and Comprehensive Planning Committee formulate specific recommendations for municipal action.

J Jeffers announced his term on the Committee was completed at the end of this year and that he would not seek to remain on the Committee. The Chair thanked Mr. Jeffers for his work on the Committee.

J Holden briefed the Committee about upcoming Community Development Block Grant applications. He asked and for input and recommendations for projects for these grant programs. The Committee provided feedback based on his memo noting some possible projects.

J Holden briefed the Committee, as well, on a Memo he was asked to provide Council in November regarding development pressures on the “west side” of the City. The memo was shared with the Committee. The Committee discussed, in general, the desire to review the Comprehensive Plan; update the Plan, and review zoning and other codes that rely on the Comprehensive Plan.

J Holden proposed, with support from the Chair, the following general subjects for upcoming meetings that will, as has been asked by the Committee, help formulate a “economic development program” or guidance. Mr. Holden noted that he looked forward to doing so as he has been in the City at his position for 11 months and with the conclusion of the Camden Street project it is a good time to seek the Committee’s input. The January meeting will include an “outline” of a program for review and discussion. It was noted that this program be at a relatively high level. In February, the Committee will review analytical reports that may provide guidance and priority for the program with the hope that the program will be approved by the Committee in March.

J Holden also offered a more immediate short term activity. In his meetings with business in the community there are questions regarding types of available financing for expansions. He suggested a lunch time seminar be offered to the business community on this subject. S Coomer noted the Chamber would like to help in such an event. The Committee endorsed the idea.

The meeting was adjourned and the Committee then held as a separate meeting a public information meeting on the City’s Brownfield Program.