

**Rockland Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Meeting January 30, 2014**

**Minutes (draft by J Holden)**

In attendance:

Joann Billington, Member (Chair)

George Terrien, Member

Tina Plummer, Member

Robin McIntosh, PBRCC

Steve Roberts, Member

Valli Geiger, Member (pending Council approval)

Larry Pritchett, Mayor, representative of Rockland Main Street Inc. (RMSI)

John Holden, Community Development Director, Rockland

Minutes from the December 19 meeting were approved

R McIntosh provided a brief Chamber update noting her role is changing to focus more on business development and tourism. She noted that there is a new effort on marketing maritime heritage and includes input from Maine Easter Rail Road. The Chamber will be attending the Boston Globe Travel Show. The Chamber Business Expo is in April and they are seeking exhibitors for the event. The Chamber plans to make changes and update its web site to provide information on the Chamber's broader reach of services. The Annual Guide (The Jewel) is now available. The Chamber Annual Meeting is on February 12.

There was no RMSI update, other than noting that they are in process of reviewing applications for new Executive Director. J Holden noted that he has kept in close communications with the President and Past President of the Board.

J Holden provided an update on City Projects:

- Downtown CDBG and TIF Investments. Information being gathered and there will be additional public meetings to discuss the Downtown grant. The Committee agreed to hold an additional public information meeting as part of its regular February meeting. The proposed grant funds will be focused on sidewalk improvements on side streets in the Downtown and the Council will be getting an update and request for expenditure of additional Downtown TIF funds to support continued infrastructure projects in the Downtown. RMSI network and mailing list will be used to solicit public input.
- The City has selected Landmark Surveyors and Engineers as the Engineering consultant. J Holden is reaching out to property owners to get input on the last set of plans presented and

there will be an additional public meeting to discuss current plans based on that input and available funds.

- A joint meeting with the Comprehensive Planning Committee (Comps) was set for February 6 at 7:00 PM. J Billington suggested that the focus for initial action be in and around the Maverick Street intersection. J Holden noted that he would reach out to property owners at that intersection to review the plans and proposals. S Roberts volunteered to accompany J Holden on such meetings.
- J Holden noted that there are three properties in the Tillson Avenue area currently awaiting DEP approval of Phase I reports. It is expected that Phase II's will commence immediately thereafter. The next focus will be to identify some "petroleum sites" that might participate.

J Holden then shared with the Committee a Draft Community Economic Development Program for discussion. He emphasized that this is relatively "high level" and an outline of the "program" for community (and) economic development—noting, again, he considers community and economic development as one program. The Committee reviewed, with him, the draft provided input, asked questions, and offered suggestions. J Holden will incorporate the Committee' input and present a revised draft at the March meeting (February being devoted to reviewing economic summary reports with the Committee).

There was no other business before the Committee. Meeting adjourned.