

**Rockland Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Meeting February 27, 2014**

**Minutes (draft by J Holden). Approved March 27, 2014**

In attendance:

Joann Billington, Member (Chair)  
George Terrien, Member  
Robin McIntosh, PBRCC  
Steve Roberts, Member  
Valli Geiger, Member (pending Council approval)  
Mark Breton, citizen, guest  
John Holden, Community Development Director, Rockland  
Scott Benson, Midcoast Economic Development District

Minutes from the January 30, 2014 meeting were approved

J Holden shared a Memo he prepared for review. A recommendation from G Terrien of a Council motion was distributed. The Committee voted unanimously to ask that the G Terrien draft Council motion be sent to Council for consideration. J Holden will forward.

G Terrien suggested that Jane LeFleur be asked if she would facilitate meetings with Comps and REDAC to continue to move Camden Street Project along. J Holden will reach out to her. J Holden noted that he had to be in touch with S Roberts to schedule follow up visits with property owners at the Maverick Street intersection.

R McIntosh gave Chamber update including recent attendance at New England Travel Show, upcoming Cruise Show, and April 9 Chamber Business Expo. Chamber is also attending meeting with Maine Easter Railway and Amtrak in regards to their upcoming season schedule.

J Holden introduced Scott Benson. He works for Midcoast Economic Development District (MCEDD). MCEDD is the regional economic development district entity for Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and portions of Cumberland and Waldo Counties. Among planning and direct support to business MCEDD is the federally designated Economic Development Administration District. As such, it is responsible for submitting a regional economic development strategy that is, among other things, a requirement for EDA funding. John shared that it has been his pleasure working with MCEDD and that their support is extremely valuable to the City of Rockland. Mr. Benson is the primary author of the Rockland Economic Development Summary.

Mr. Benson reviewed with the Committee the Economic Development Summary, took questions, explained portions, and asked for input. The Committee thanked him for his time and explanation. The

Committee then reviewed the Rockland Retail Trade Area Analysis, with J Holden providing explanations and answering questions. J Holden provided additional new data to the report.

J Holden provided an update on City Projects:

- J Holden is meeting with property owners along the Thorndike Block for input to the Parking Lot project. There will be a follow up meeting with owners and tenants on March 12.
- J Holden updated that three properties in the Brownfield program along Tillson Avenue have completed Phase I environmental assessments and Phase II's will begin in March. J Holden asked Committee support for hosting a Brownfield "conference" of sorts in the fall to include, if possible, a tour of these sites. The Committee indicated support.

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

A follow up public information meeting on an application to the Community Development Block Grant Downtown Program took place immediately after the REDAC meeting.