

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

Minutes (draft by J Holden). Approved 04/24/14.

In attendance:

Joann Billington, Member (Chair)
George Terrien, Member
Robin McIntosh, PBRCC
Steve Roberts, Member
Mark Breton, Member
John Holden, Community Development Director, Rockland
Audra Caler-Bell, Midcoast Economic Development District
Gordon Page, RMSI
Larry Pritchett, Mayor, Board Members RMSI

Minutes from the February 27, 2014 meeting were approved

Camden Street. J Holden provide a brief report on progress to date. The Comprehensive Planning Committee proposes to meet sometime after April 17. J Holden will coordinate with D Kalloch on this meeting. J Holden will follow up on DOT review of plan. J Holden and S Roberts will begin meeting property owners around Maverick & Camden Streets later in April. J Billington noted the difficulty of walking by the used car dealer at this intersection. J Holden will share this with CEO John Root. S Roberts noted and thanked City effort to plow sidewalk along Camden Street.

There was discussion and suggestions about research on the additional property values that may be developed through the use of the standards in the study. Such research would complement any update on the Comprehensive Plan that is the role of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. REDAC, may, however, offer to play a role in that aspect of such an update. J Holden noted that such research is, in part, within the draft economic development program around subject of "targeted area development." J Holden will research costs and how to look at such research.

J Holden noted the draft Park Street Order. A Caler-Bell then spoke about seeking funds from the Orton Foundation to support that effort. She will do so in her role with MCEDD and will coordinate that with the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

R McIntosh handed out a number of materials as part of a Chamber update including Annual Report, notice of the Business Expo and others.

G Page noted that this was his first meeting of REDAC as the new Executive Director of Rockland Main Street, Inc. In the future he will provide updates. He did note that there will be a “Morning on Main” meeting on April 15 at RMSI office. This is an informal gathering and chance to network and get updates on upcoming events.

J Holden provided his CD update. He reviewed the March 18 Memo he had provided when he assumed he could not make this meeting. He clarified that the City was informed that they were ineligible to apply for a CDBG Micro Enterprise Assistance Grant and a Downtown Revitalization Grant in the same Program year (even though they had been invited to apply for both). This means that the City will not be seeking the MEA grant for Lil Sweet Peas. John expressed his regret and noted the City would like to hold a ribbon cutting for this business if, as expected, they take ownership of the property.

J Holden summarized his meetings and plans to work with the “arts community” on a Community & Arts Development Strategy and Cultural Plan. He will engage REDAC as those plans develop. He also noted that he has secured the support of the Economic Development Council of Maine (EDCM) to host their November quarterly meeting on Brownfields and Urban Redevelopment in Rockland. He will request input and support from REDAC on organizing this at the next meeting. J Holden also he has made some progress and is seeking quotes to print a bi-fold “Expanding Your Business in Rockland” . J Billington suggested seeking sponsorships for this project (printing). He will report back with a draft at the next meeting.