

**Rockland Economic Development Advisory Committee
Meeting December 18, 2014**

Draft Minutes of Meeting 12-18-14

In attendance:

J Billington, Chair
S Roberts, Member
Gordon Page, Rockland Main Street, Inc.
K Brace Pen Bay Chamber
T Plummer, Member
J Jeffers, Member
L Ondra, Member
V Geiger, Member
J Wright, citizen
F Isginitis, Mayor
John Holden, Community Development Director, Rockland

1. Minutes from the September 25 2014 meeting were approved.
2. J Holden provided an updated version of the Community Economic Development Program to the Committee. He further reviewed, briefly some projects with particular attention on meetings to research and review the expansion of ultra high-speed broadband may provided in the City. V Geiger and S Roberts expressed urgency in this project. CD Office has contracted with consultant to do a demand survey in the areas targeted by the Office for such expansion.
3. Don White from the Midcoast Transit Committee provided a review and update on the Committee efforts. The Committee began in 2011. In 2014 a report by Nelson-Nygaard identified options for MC transit service. Recently, DOT hired a second consultant who offered a more seasonal approach and recommendation. Mr. White asked for the Committee's input and representation on the MC Transit Committee. In the past, J Holden had attended meetings on behalf of the City. With Mr. Holden's departure it was not clear who will be on the Committee representing the City. Members were reluctant to appoint persons from the Committee and rather deferred to the City Council or Acting City Manager to appoint representation from the City.
4. Camden Street. The consultants will be beginning their work in January and it was expected that they may be at the Agenda Setting Meeting of City Council in January to outline their work.
5. RMSI and Chamber updates included summary of activities including Chamber presence at cruise and other trade shows on behalf of the City.
6. V Geiger asked for Committee input on request by Rockland Realty (R Rockwell) for Credit Enhancement Agreement to support renovations of building in downtown to house Main Street Markets.

7. School District. S Roberts reported on successful application of grant to support Pre-K education in the District, due to efforts of the Superintendent. He also wanted it to be clarified that the District (contrary to “rumor”) has no figure on the impact of the departure of St. George from the District. He also announced that Many Flags has encouraged the District or City to apply for “Promise Neighborhood Zone” status that would provide advantage for federal grant applications.
8. The Chair asked the Committee to consider what issue or project they would like the Committee to focus on for 2015 and bring suggestions to the next meeting.
9. The Chair offered up any nominations from the Committee to assume Chair role in 2015. With no takers, motion made and voted unanimously for JoAnne Billington to remain Chair.