

**Rockland Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Meeting April 23, 2015**

**Draft Minutes of Meeting 4-23-15**

In attendance:

J Billington, Chair

S Roberts, Member

R McIntosh, Pen Bay Chamber

T Plummer, Member

J Jeffers, Member

L Ondra, Member

V Geiger, Member

G Page, Rockland Main Street Inc.

Audrey Lovering, May Flags

Audra Caler-Bell, Community & Economic Development Director, Rockland

1. Motion by G page to accept meeting minutes seconded by J Jeffers – unanimously accepted.
2. Audrey Lovering, Executive Director of Many Flags gave a presentation on the organization and the work they are doing to partner with local schools and improve educational outcomes. She discussed a number of different ways the community could become more involved including:
  - Creating job shadowing opportunities with the local community
  - Community speakers to come to the school and discuss certain topics
  - Marketing and branding to the outside world
  - Training on skills expected by employers

R McIntosh spoke about a program with the Chamber, Schools and business community that covers many of the points above. Will speak with the new Chamber Director about restarting this program.

S Roberts asked how we can help to keep Many Flags active

A Lovering answered that once Promise Neighborhood and JT Gorman Foundation funding runs out Many Flags needs to do fundraising and find board members with experience in this area.

3. J Billington explained the activities of the Parking Committee and its relation to economic development. The Parking Committee is discussing options for monetizing parking in the downtown and how to prioritize visitor over staff parking. Suggested there may be a role for REDAC in this discussion. There may be an opportunity to engage Robert Orr to advise on options for optimizing downtown parking, moving employee parking outside of the downtown, bringing in revenue from parking, and looking at how Bangor has addressed these issues.
4. RMSI – gave an overview of current activities including upcoming event: Rockland Has Style and Taste
5. Chamber – New Executive Director, Tom Peaco. The business expo had 1,000 people attend.
6. School District – Currently finishing budget which includes making the Gifted and Talented program State approved (upfront cost but will be reimbursed by State), and adding a Pre K Program which is funded by a grant.

7. Comprehensive Planning Commission – Presented height recommendations to Council. Would like to have a public workshop to discuss prior to going before Council for passage. Will be working on updating Chapter 19 of Comp plan to be consistent with strategies outlined in plan, particularly infill development and consolidating zones.
8. S Roberts asked about the McDougal School and if there were any plans for the redevelopment of this site.  
There are currently no redevelopment plans for this site.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm, Next REDAC meeting is May 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm