

# Annual Report

## FY Year Ending October 31, 2020



***“Faces of Economic and Community Development Professionals Serving the Maine Community Development Association”***



## **Maine Community Development Association**

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*“Our volunteers are talented and dedicated and strive to provide the membership with as much service as possible”.*

## **Message from the President**

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### **Message from the President**

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. During my first year as your President, I certainly did not think life would come to a halt. The COVID-19 pandemic is truly novel, and continues to affect our lives, our communities, and our nation in a way none of us could have ever imagined.

We have all seen our communities lose businesses, jobs, and education. We have pulled together resources to help our business community try to stay open. Some of us has seen businesses leave as well as new ones come in.

We, as you, are trying to find our strength in the vulnerability that comes from the unknown. I do not know when this will end. I do not know what the world will look like when it is done. I do not know when we will truly feel safe again.

I do know, however, that our members are resilient, passionate and nimble. We are a group of professionals willing to have hard conversations and support each other through this time of uncertainty. Although we have not been able to meet in person, we have all been proactive through the technology world to reach out and learn from one another.

I have no doubt that the strength of our membership will continue to support each other to respond with creativity, innovative ideas, and compassion. My promise to you as we head into year two, is that we will navigate this novel situation together – whether virtually or by phone – as best as we can and know how, so we can be here for each other and communities we serve.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your President and looking forward to 2021!

Tracey Desjardins  
2019 - 2021

## Financial Statements

### Statement of Revenues and Expenses

(As of July, 2020)

		Budget	Actual		Prior Year	Actual
			Month	Y-T-D	Month	Y-T-D
	<b>REVENUES</b>					
40101	Interest Income	\$21.00	\$1.60	\$10.89	\$1.57	\$11.42
40201	Member Dues	\$4,100.00	\$0.00	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,900.00
	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	\$4,121.00	\$1.60	\$3,510.89	\$1.57	\$3,911.42
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
50201	Postage	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$40.15	\$0.00	\$32.98
50202	Printing	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$89.68
50203	Photocopies	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$9.96	\$0.00	\$0.18
50204	Supplies	\$6.00	\$0.00	\$1.03	\$0.00	\$0.19
50291	General Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$533.94	\$8.67	\$33.87
50202	Seminars	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.59
50411	Contract Services – MMA	\$2,400.00	\$199.00	\$1,392.00	\$194.50	\$1,361.50
50502	COSFDA Convention	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
50505	Newsletter/Admin	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
50506	Web Page Update	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$6,521.00	\$199.00	\$1,977.08	\$203.17	\$2,168.99
	<b>NET INCOME(LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$2,400.00)</b>	<b>(\$197.40)</b>	<b>\$1,533.81</b>	<b>(\$201.60)</b>	<b>\$1,742.43</b>

### Balance Sheet

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	\$14,690.81
Checking	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$14,690.81</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	
Fund Balances	\$14,690.81
Fund Balance	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$14,690.81</b>

## Advocacy

MCDA's Advocacy role is extremely important. It allows the organization to weigh-in on proposed legislation and policies that impact community development in Maine. As an organization for community development professionals, MCDA positions itself to be looked at by both state and federal officials as the "voice" of community development and policymaking in Maine. MCDA has established an Advocacy Committee consisting of a minimum of five active members whose responsibility is to develop strategies to enhance its visibility. Each year, MCDA participates in the rule-making process conducted by the Office of Community Development (OCD) to provide input on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Program changes crafted by OCD concerning the distribution of the CDBG funds are presented to through a series of public hearings where public comments are solicited.

2015-2020 CDBG Distribution						
Program	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Budget</b>	\$10,581,799	\$10,765,432	\$10,765,432	\$10,632,000	\$11,600,000	\$11,566,645
<b>Administration</b>	\$311,635	\$315,308	\$315,308	\$312,000	\$332,000	\$331,332
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	\$105,817	\$114,347	\$114,347	\$106,000	\$116,000	\$115,666
<b>Regional Council Planning Assistance</b>	\$114,347	\$107,654	\$107,654	\$114,000	\$114,000	\$114,000
<b>Community Development Programs</b>						
<b>Downtown Revitalization</b>	\$400,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
<b>Home Repair Network</b>	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000
<b>Housing Assistance</b>	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>Public Service</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
<b>Public Facility</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Public Infrastructure</b>	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000
<b>Workforce Development</b>	\$750,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Safe Neighborhood</b>	\$0	\$700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Small Business Development Center</b>	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>Maine Downtown Center</b>	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
<b>Urgent Need</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Special Projects</b>	\$0	\$178,123	\$28,123	\$0	\$38,000	\$5,647
<b>Community Enterprise Grants</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
<b>Economic Development Programs</b>						
<b>Economic Development Grants</b>	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,400,000	\$2,400,000	\$2,000,000
<b>Micro-Enterprise Grant</b>	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$500,000
<b>Underground Storage Tank Program</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0

The Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Office of Community Development (OCD) holds public hearings annually in October/November for the purpose of soliciting comments on the CDBG Proposed Program. OCD anticipates that a similar timeline for Letters of Intent and grant applications will follow the same timeline as the 2020 Program.

Program	Letter of Intent	Application
Downtown Revitalization	On or About January 26	On or About March 30
Economic Development	On or About February 23	On or About May 25
Housing	On or About March 9	On or About May 4
Microenterprise	On or About February 9	On or About April 27
Public Infrastructure	On or About January 19	On or About March 30
Public Service	On or About May 4	On or About June 22

It should be noted that all programs and deadlines are subject to change without notice. Please visit the Office of Community Development website at [www.meocd.org](http://www.meocd.org) for more information.

**What if there were no CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Program.....**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is one of the longest-running programs of U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and one of the few programs available to fund ‘bricks and mortar’ projects. From 1982 to 2019, the State of Maine’s Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) awarded in excess of \$523,880,210 to non-entitlement communities for various community and economic development projects to benefit primarily low-to-moderate income (LMI) individuals. The following table describes the total 2020 CDBG awards for a variety of community and economic development categories awarded to communities throughout the state.

Program	Total Award	# of People Affected	# of Businesses	# of HH Assisted	Amount Leveraged
Public Infrastructure	\$3,380,000	2,671			\$14,237,000
Downtown Revitalization	\$400,000	14,929			\$3,150,000
Economic Development	\$821,000	27 Jobs created	9		\$1,925,150
Micro-Enterprise Assistance	\$585,000		16		\$244,607
Public Service	\$336,181	4,000±			\$187,880
Housing Assistance	\$1,450,000			67	\$4,303,929
Home Repair Network	\$1,700,000			300	
COVID-19 <sup>1</sup>			345	1,000	

<sup>1</sup>Micro-Enterprise Business Grants up to \$5,000  
Submitted By: Deborah Johnson, Director of Office of Community Development



#### Maine Made Delivers

The Maine Made Program is operated through the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development to connect consumers to the variety of quality products produced in Maine. This juried program requires an application to determine the integrity of the business, its eCommerce capabilities, quality of craftsmanship, and a solid commitment to using the finest materials and practices. Visit [MaineMade.com](http://MaineMade.com) to discover hundreds of products sorted into twenty different categories. Want to refine your search to something more local? It's easy! The site also allows you to search for products by region. Traveling around the state? Great! MaineMade.com also lists of over 50 Certified Maine Made Retailers who sell only Maine made products created by a variety of Maine artisans and makers.

We encourage you to support Maine small businesses; the ones who donate to your causes, the ones who patronize your establishment, those who contribute to your local economies. Whether it's for gifting, a celebration, or something for yourself - for every reason, Maine Made delivers. Most importantly, each time you purchase from a small business, someone does a little happy dance.

## Communication

MCDA offers quarterly newsletters to provide its membership with news, promotions, upcoming events, job opportunities and funding opportunities. It provides the reader with an opportunity to share common community and economic development issues and concerns as well as successful stories. The following are a few examples of topics included in the newsletters:

### News From Around the State

- Maine 200: Destination Development/Maine's Bicentennial Celebration
- State of Maine: Ten-Year Strategic Planning for Economic Development
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), and Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding programs

### Jobs & Classifieds

- Camden – Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator – A job description and application form are available at the Town Manager's Office, 29 Elm Street, P.O. Box 1207, Camden, ME 04843 or call (207) 236-3353 ext. 7107.
- Loring Development Authority – President and CEO – Interested applicants must mail resume, cover letter, and references to: Loring Development Authority of Maine, Attn: CEO Search Committee, 154 Development Drive, Suite F, Limestone, ME 04750
- Town of Millinocket – Design/Architectural Services – The Town is soliciting Bids/Proposals from design/architectural teams to plan and design a new FBO building for the Millinocket Municipal Airport. If interested, please find details on the town's website at [www.millinocket.org](http://www.millinocket.org) or call (207) 723-7000 ext. 5.
- City of Rockland – RFP for Professional Services – for planning for ordinance development and design services for wayfinding (vehicle and pedestrian) and associated sign designs. <https://rocklandmaine.gov/request-for-proposals-professional-services>.
- City of Rockland – RFP for Waterfront Planning and Design – [www.rocklandmaine.gov/rfp/rfp-waterfront-planning-and-design](http://www.rocklandmaine.gov/rfp/rfp-waterfront-planning-and-design)
- City of Biddeford – RFP for Rehabilitation Specialist Services – Submit six copies of the proposal to: Gail Wilkerson, Housing Director, [gail.wilkerson@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:gail.wilkerson@biddefordmaine.org), P.O. Box 586, 205 Main Street, Biddeford, ME 04005 or call (207) 284-9115 ext. 6.
- Town of Tremont – Comprehensive Plan Consultant RFP – Proposals from qualified consultants to assist with the development of a comprehensive plan are due October 16, 2020. If interested, sealed proposals shall be submitted to: Town of Tremont, Attn: Town Manager, P.O. Box 159, Tremont, ME 04612. Questions may be addressed to Christopher Saunders, Town Manager via email to [manager@tremont.maine.gov](mailto:manager@tremont.maine.gov)
- Cumberland County – Emergency Management Agency Director – Applications are accepted until October 2, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. For a complete list of responsibilities or to download an application, please visit [www.cumberlandcounty.org/jobs](http://www.cumberlandcounty.org/jobs).
- Oxford County – County Administrator – Interested and qualified applicants should submit a detailed cover letter and resume to: Oxford County Commissioner's Office, Attn: Abby Shanor, P.O. Box 179, South Paris, ME 04281 or email [ashanor@oxfordcounty.org](mailto:ashanor@oxfordcounty.org).

All jobs and classifies are listed under the Maine Municipal Association's website at [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org).

### Upcoming Events:

- Northern New England Planning American Planning Association (NNEPAPA) Conference on November 13-15, 2019 at the Omni Mount Washington Resort.
- 2019 Housing and Economy Conference on October 10, 2019 at the Double Tree Manchester Downtown.

**Maine Community Development Association**  
April - July 2020 Volume 16, Issue 2

**MMA's 2020 Virtual Convention**  
The 64th Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Convention will kick off on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 with a small audience in attendance at the Augusta Civic Center. MMA will offer a series of ZOOM-based webinars beginning October 8 through October 15, 2020. Executive Members of the Convention will include:

- Kirby Senator, Executive Director of the Capital Construction Commission on Lessons from Away Planning, COVID, and One Case One Deal from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on October 7
- Matt Lehman, Social Prosperity Partners
- From Co-Rfid to Conversation from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. on October 7
- Dr. Sam Rogge, Ph.D., Professor of History, University of Maine "The Birth of a Great State" from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on October 8
- OHSU Commissioner Joanne Luntzow from 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. on October 8

**Webinar topics offered:**

Date	Time	Webinar Topic
October 7, 2020	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	MMA Annual Business Meeting
	12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	MMA Address and Luncheon
	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	2020-21 Legislative Update
October 8, 2020	1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Local Roads: Best Practices
	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Local Roads: Continued
October 9, 2020	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	The 2020 Election
	11:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Importance of Age-Friendly Communities
	1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Understanding Implicit Bias
	2:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Traditional Financing for Capital Projects
October 13, 2020	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Understanding Property Tax Assessment
	11:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Community Plans of Rural & Coastal Planning
October 14, 2020	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Stream Smart: Crossings and Modern Culverts
	11:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Stream Smart: Crossings and Modern Culverts
	1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Ohio State RFD General Assistance
	2:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Municipal Management Institute Networking & Roundtable Discussion
October 15, 2020	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Lease/Purchase Financing for Essential Equipment

For complete details, visit the MMA website at [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org)



### Funding Opportunity

- **U.S. Housing and Urban Development – Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program**  
Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support the implementation of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans that are expected to achieve the following three core goals: 1. Housing: Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood; 2. People: Improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children’s education; and 3. Neighborhood: Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families’ choices about their community. Deadline: December 16, 2020
- **U.S. Housing and Urban Development-Resident Opportunity & Self-Sufficiency Program**  
The Resident Opportunity & Self Sufficiency Service Coordinator (ROSS-SC) program is designed to assist residents of Public and Indian Housing make progress towards economic and housing self-sufficiency by removing the educational, professional and health barriers they face. Self sufficiency is defined as an individual’s ability to support their household by maintaining financial, housing, and personal/family stability. To achieve self-sufficiency, an individual moves along a continuum towards economic independence and stability; such movement is facilitated by the achievement of individual educational, professional, and health-related goals. Deadline: November 19, 2020
- **USDA – Community Connect Grant Program**  
The Community Connect Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the Broadband Grant Speed to all premises in rural, economically-challenged communities where broadband service does not exist. The deployment of broadband services on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis stimulates economic development and provides enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. RUS will give priority to rural areas that demonstrate the greatest need for broadband services, based on the criteria contained herein. Deadline: December 23, 2020
- **Maine Department of Environmental Protection – Stream Crossing Grants**  
The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is administering \$5 million in a single round of grant funding to assist municipalities with stream crossing upgrades and replacements. These monies fund competitive grants that match local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings, which to date has resulted in financial assistance to over 100 projects statewide. The projects replace culverts that are failing and at risk of complete washouts, improve fish spawning habitat, eliminate undersized and other impassable culverts and reduce erosion impacts to streams, brooks and lakes. The grant RFP application is available starting Sept. 1, with proposals due by Nov. 16.
- **Maine Emergency Management Agency-Flood Mitigation Assistance**  
The Flood Mitigation program provides funding assistance for project scoping, community flood mitigation projects, technical assistance, Flood Hazard Mitigation Planning and Individual Flood Mitigation Projects. Examples of flood mitigation projects include, but are not limited to: acquisition/demolition/structure elevation, wetland restoration/creation, stormwater manager, etc. Sub-applicant applications are to be submitted via the FEMA GO system no later than end of business on December 15, 2020. Applications will then be reviewed and ranked by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer before formal submission to FEMA on January 29, 2021.
- **Maine Emergency Management Agency – Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities**  
This is a new program offering pre-disaster mitigation funds for projects associated with disaster and natural hazard risk reduction. This funding is available to applicants at a 75% federal, 25% non-federal cost share with \$500 million in total available. Sub-applicant applications are to be submitted via the FEMA GO system no later than end of business on December 15, 2020. Applications will then be reviewed and ranked by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer before formal submission to FEMA on January 29, 2021.

## Membership

MCDA membership consists of 28 communities, 10 organizations/CAP agencies/regional planning and council of governments/state agency; 2 consultants and 1 engineering firm.

	Organizations	Engineering/Consultant
Ashland	Office of Community Development	Ransom Consulting, Inc.
Bangor	Hancock County Planning Commission	Economic Development Consultant,
Bath	Kennebec Valley Council of Governments	Darryl Sterling
Biddeford	Lincoln County Regional Planning	
Bowdoinham	Commission	
Bradford	Maine Development Foundation	
Brunswick	Northern Maine Development Commission	
Caswell	Piscataquis County Economic Development	
Chelsea	Council	
Fort Fairfield	Sunrise County Economic Council	
Fort Kent	Washington County COG	
Gardiner		
Guilford		
Houlton		
Islesboro		
Madawaska		
Old Town		
Presque Isle		
Rockland		
St. Agatha		
Searsport		
Skowhegan		
Thomaston		
Topsham		
Yarmouth		

**Becoming an MCDA member offers numerous benefits, such as training and workshops, legislative advocacy, affiliation with other agencies and organizations, links to funding opportunities, and ability to network with multiple partners. The Quarterly Newsletter provides informational materials on funding opportunities, job openings, community and economic development articles, and upcoming events. MCDA urges each municipality to become a member of the organization. MCDA is an affiliate group of the Maine Municipal Association and as such enjoys the same status regarding lobbying. MCDA's Advocacy Role is to weigh in on proposed legislation and policies that impact community development in Maine. MCDA also works closely with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). DECD's Office of Community Development works collaboratively with MCDA to review proposed changes and garner support for the CDBG Program.**

### Why Join MCDA.....

- Ability to Work Together
- Internal Network
- Creates a Larger Voice
- Tenure and Experience of Members
- Connection to Funding Sources
- Multiple Resource Base
- Increased Opportunities for Professional Development

## Professional Development

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MCDA's purpose is to provide forums to increase awareness and foster communication relating to community development issues and concerns, and to provide education and training through workshops. The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has prohibited the gatherings of people and for this reason, MCDA will not be holding a professional development workshop at the MMA Convention this year. For information on past educational and training workshops, please visit the MCDA website at [www.maineccda.org](http://www.maineccda.org) and review the Annual Reports section on Professional Development. MCDA provides its membership with other ways of notification of training opportunities, such as on-line training, sharing of information via website links, and through newsletters/annual reports.

Well-attended training workshops such as the 2019 sessions are designed to attract and inform community and economic development professionals, local government officials, and other interested parties with the most pressing and up-to-date information available on topics of significance affecting their communities. Last year's sessions included:

### 2019 MCDA's "Meeting the Challenges of Housing Older Adults" Session

- Financing the creation of units that are cost effective, yet support adults as they grow older,
- Supporting broadband and telehealth initiatives in senior housing projects,
- Assisting older homeowners "age in place" by working with public housing authorities to provide modifications to their homes



### 2019 MCDA's "ABC's of Economic Development"

Presenters provided the basics of planning for economic development –

MCDA members are urged to visit member websites for additional forums on professional development. Visit [www.maineccda.org](http://www.maineccda.org) for membership listings.

Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) has provided the following community development presentations that was offered to its service area communities last year. The educational and training presentations was made possible with grant funding awarded under the USDA Rural Development, Rural Community Development Initiative. NMDC is delighted to share this professional development opportunity with all MCDA members.



Environmental  
Levels of Review.ppt



RCDI  
Presentation-Busine



Session 2 - Income  
Surveys.pptx



What is a  
Comprehensive Plan

## Economic and Community Development

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### News from around the State –

#### City of Presque Isle

Momentum is building to revitalize downtown Presque Isle! The City of Presque Isle has been formulating a new 30-year vision to address economic reinvestment within the downtown. The Downtown Redevelopment Plan is a forward-thinking and easy to read document that catalogs Presque Isle's current assets of businesses, recreational offerings, public infrastructure, transportation and community assets. What makes the Downtown Redevelopment Plan truly special is that it establishes easy to understand goals that address challenges facing the city. This plan was forged by hands-on participation by small business owners, community stakeholders, elected officials, and citizen volunteers in creating a new vision for downtown Presque Isle. Presque Isle's 30-year vision will attract new talent and businesses to the downtown. Talented and passionate volunteers will be needed to serve on the various working groups to assist in implementing this 2050 vision.



Article Submitted By: Galen Weibley, Director of Economic & Community Development

The Downtown Redevelopment Plan proposes activities such as Façade Improvements for Downtown Storefronts, Sidewalk and Streetscape Improvements, Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements, Downtown Signage, and various other activities. To help complete these goals, property revenues located within the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District will see their portion of improved value sheltered into a special TIF fund that will be earmarked to complete projects as revenue is available. If interested parties would like to review a copy of the draft plan, please call 207-760-2727 or email [gweibley@presqueisleme.us](mailto:gweibley@presqueisleme.us).

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#### City of Biddeford

The City of Biddeford, Treadwell Franklin Infrastructure Capital (TFIC), Amber Infrastructure Group (Amber) and PC Construction broke ground on a 640-space parking garage on city-owned property on August 11, 2020. The garage will support parking needs for development of Biddeford's Mill District, including the future mixed-use development set for the 3 Lincoln St site as well as the Lincoln Mill and Riverdam Mill redevelopment projects already underway. It will also relieve the existing parking pressures in Biddeford's growing downtown.

The City of Biddeford entered into an agreement with TFIC to complete the City's RiverWalk project and to develop and manage the City's new parking garage and nearby surface parking lots. The City's progressive Development Agreement with its project partners allows the construction to be completed without the use of residential property tax dollars and with no impact on Biddeford's tax rate. Instead, the City will contribute to the project through two sources: annual payments from the City's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues and fee revenues collected from the operation of the parking garage and downtown surface lots. The garage is expected to be in service in July 2021. Parking on all streets in Biddeford will continue to be free. Read more about the project at [www.biddefordmaine.org/parkinggarage](http://www.biddefordmaine.org/parkinggarage).

Article Submitted By: City of Biddeford

## Town of Ashland

The Future Forest Economy Initiative awarded three grants totaling a \$1.7 million investment in the region's forest economy seeking to diversify markets for wood and wood products from the Northern Forest region. The initiative is a cooperative effort of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, and the Northern Forest Center. It grew out of a congressional mandate to support the development of markets for wood products. The grant awards are the first in a three-year program that will invest \$2.6 million to expand innovation, create market demand and create conditions that will allow businesses and communities to benefit from these innovations.

The Town of Ashland will receive \$450,000 in grant funds for an initiative to position Ashland and the Maine Woods to take advantage of an estimated \$10 million market for structural round timber products in the northeastern United States. Structural round timber is a low carbon mass-timber building product that can be used as an alternative to steel. It requires no adhesives, minimal processing, and can be fabricated using existing facility infrastructure and local timber supplies.

Ashland has been looking at multiple market opportunities to restore more wood products manufacturing. The Town is strategically located at the gateway to the Northern Maine forest and have close proximity and transportation access to significant markets. The Town has a 100-acre industrial park and numerous under-utilized manufacturing sites that could support such businesses.

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## Portland Downtown

Each year, on the Friday after Thanksgiving, Portland Downtown proudly hosts the *Monument Square Tree Lighting*. The event typically draws a crowd of 3,000-4,000 residents and visitors; however, for obvious reasons, there will be no traditional event this year. Rather Portland Downtown will collaborate with a local production company to create a live 24/7 tree cam and website. Viewers locally, and across the globe, will be able to access the site and enjoy the lovely tree and its surroundings throughout the season. The tree cam and site will be ready to launch on or around November 13, 2020 and will remain online/active until mid-January 2021.

*Merry Madness* is Portland Downtown's signature holiday shopping event that will look a lot different this year. Instead of a one-night, late-night shopping extravaganza in downtown Portland, an alternative plan that will allow for safe and fun holiday shopping and dining experiences over a four-week period. The *Merry Madness Passport* is a pocket-sized booklet filled with deals, discounts, and special offers at participating downtown businesses. The Passport makes it fun and easy for shoppers to explore downtown, support the local businesses they love, and find treasures for everyone on their holiday shopping list. Adding to the fun: Passport holders can collect official *Merry Madness Passport* stamps throughout the season. Passport holders who collect 10 stamps or more will be eligible to win some amazing raffle prize packages curated by Portland Downtown. The Passport can be used throughout the entire month of December. This helps reduce big crowds and allows for flexible shopping over a period of four weeks.

Article Submitted By: Cary Tyson Executive Director, Portland Downtown
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**2020 Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Awards**

- Town of Searsport\* - \$88,810 for sewer facility upgrades
- Town of East Millinocket - \$516,116 to fix and upgrade the recycling and train facilities
- Greater Franklin Development Council - \$1,000,000 to extend fiber optic internet access to six towns in and around Franklin County
- Anson Madison Sanitary District - \$1,000,000 to upgrade the sewer system
- Fort Fairfield Utilities District\* - \$1,000,000 for the construction of new infrastructure to treat wastewater
- Ashland Water and Sewer District\* - \$505,100 to enhance water quality by removing and replacing aging infrastructure
- Community Concepts Finance Corporation – \$44,600 to improve internet access in rural Maine for approximately 8,000 people
- Sunrise County Economic Council\* - \$345,000 to create a small business support center in Washington County

*\*MCDA Members*

***CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NBRC RECIPIENTS!***

**MCDA Past Presidents**

Stephen Dyer	2017-2019		
Gail Chase	2015-2017	Scott Pierz	1996-1997
Darryl Sterling	2013-2015	Perley Beane	1994-1995
Rodney Lynch	2011-2013	Orman Whitcomb	1992-1993
James Gulnac	2009-2011	Debbie Wyman	
Tony Levesque	2008-2009	Nancy Gervais	
Chris Spruce	2007	Dan Feeney	
Isaac Wagner	2006	Arthur Faucher	
Matthew Eddy	2004-2005	Terry McCabe	1986
Peter Lyford	2002-2003	Charles Upton	1985
Al Smith	2000-2001	Rick Michaud	
Tony Levesque	1998-1999	Laurie Windsor	

**Economic and Community Development Resources**

**Federal**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

USDA Rural Development  
[www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)

U.S. Small Business Administration  
[www.sbaonline.sba.gov](http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov)

Northern Border Regional Commission  
[www.nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov)

**Regional**

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments  
[www.avcog.org](http://www.avcog.org)

Central Maine Growth Council  
[www.centralmaine.org](http://www.centralmaine.org)

Eastern Maine Development Corporation  
[www.emdc.org](http://www.emdc.org)

Hancock County Planning Commission  
[www.hcpcme.org](http://www.hcpcme.org)

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments  
[www.kvcog.org](http://www.kvcog.org)

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission  
[www.lincolncountymaine.me](http://www.lincolncountymaine.me)

**Other**

ALPHA ONE  
[www.alphaone.now.com](http://www.alphaone.now.com)

Coastal Enterprises, Inc.  
[www.ceimaine.org](http://www.ceimaine.org)

**State**

Maine Department of Economic and Community  
Development  
[www.meocd.org](http://www.meocd.org)

USDA Rural Development in Maine  
[www.rurdev.usda.gov/me](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/me)

Small Business Development Centers  
[www.mainesbdc.org](http://www.mainesbdc.org)

Midcoast Economic Development District  
[www.mceddme.org](http://www.mceddme.org)

Northern Maine Development Commission  
[www.nmdc.org](http://www.nmdc.org)

Penquis Community Action Program  
[www.penquis.org](http://www.penquis.org)

Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission  
[www.smrpc.org](http://www.smrpc.org)

Sunrise County Economic Council  
[www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org)

Washington County Council of Governments  
[www.wccog.net](http://www.wccog.net)

Maine Downtown Center  
[www.mdf.org/mdc](http://www.mdf.org/mdc)

Maine State Housing Authority  
[www.mainehousing.org](http://www.mainehousing.org)

Finance Authority of Maine  
[www.famemaine.com](http://www.famemaine.com)

## 2021 MCDA MEETING CALENDAR

January 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

February 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

June 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

August 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

December 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- General Membership Meetings
- Annual Meeting





## Maine Community Development Association

**Thursday, October 8, 2020  
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/93207923694>

Meeting ID: 932 0792 3694 +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

### **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

1. *Welcome and Introductions by Tracey Desjardins, President MCDA 2019-2021*
2. *Approval of August 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes*
3. *Treasurer's Report and Financials*
4. *Election of Officers 2021 Nominations Committee*
5. *Secretary's and Newsletter Report – Joella R. Theriault*
6. *Membership Report – Tony Levesque*
7. *Professional Development Committee Report – Scott LaFlamme*
8. *Next Meeting Date: December 10, 2020*
9. *Adjourn*

2020-2021 Board of Directors		Term Expiration
<b>Tracey Desjardins</b> President	City of Gardiner 6 Church Street Gardiner, ME 04345 (207) 582-4200	October, 2021
<b>Scott Laflamme</b> Vice President	Town of Yarmouth 200 Main Street Yarmouth, ME 04096 (207) 846-2401 Ext. 227	October, 2021
<b>Mathew Eddy</b> Treasurer	City of Biddeford 205 Main Street, P.O. Box 586 Biddeford, ME 04005 (207) 282-7119	October, 2021
<b>Joella R. Theriault</b> Secretary	Northern Maine Development Commission P.O. Box 779 Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 551-5812	October, 2021
<b>Stephen Dyer</b> Immediate Past President	Ransom Environmental Consulting 400 Commercial Street, Suite 400 Portland, ME 04101 (207) 772-2891	October, 2021
Other Board Members		Term Expiration
<b>Jen Peters</b> Member-At-Large	Sunrise County Economic Council 7 Ames Way Machias, ME 04654 (207) 255-0983	October, 2020
<b>Nancy Ketch</b> Member-At-Large	Town of Houlton 21 Water Street Houlton, ME 04730 (207) 532-7111	October, 2020
<b>Cary Tyson</b> Member-At-Large	Portland Downtown P.O. Box 8593 Portland, ME 04101 (207) 772-6828	October, 2021
<b>Darryl Sterling</b> Member-At-Large	Economic and Community Empowerment Consultant 11 Corliss Street Bath, ME 04530 (207) 807-9062	October, 2021

## Maine Community Development Association

Local Government Center

60 Community Drive

Augusta, ME 04330-9486

Tel 623-8428 or 1-800-452-8786

[www.maineeda.org](http://www.maineeda.org)



**Maine Community  
Development Association**