



MINUTES
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, August 15, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Rodney Lynch called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM

Persons Attending: Deborah Johnson, Maine DECD, Gail Chase, KVCOG; Tom Martin, Hancock County Planning Commission; Tony Levesque, town of Fort Fairfield; Matt Eddy, town of Kennebunk-consultant; Rodney Lynch, consultant towns of Thomaston and Kingfield; Darryl Sterling, Central Maine Growth Council; Mary Ellen Barnes, Lincoln County RPC, Steve Dyer, Ransom Environmental; Suzie Paradis, town of Madawaska; Justin Poirier, city of Bath

1. **Approval of May 30, 2013 Minutes:** Tony moved to accept minutes, Matt seconded and motion was passed.
2. **Treasurers Report:** Membership had increased and there is \$400 more revenue and a total of \$13,551 in the account. Tony moved to accept the treasurer's report and Matt seconded. The motion passed.
 - a. **2013-2014 Budget:** The priorities for the budget and seminars and legislative action. Rodney suggested use what we had last year. Deb Johnson asked why we did not have a booth at the MMA convention? It was explained that we had trouble manning the booth. It was suggested that we share the booth with Maine Downtown and DECD. Rodney said training seminars have had very good turnouts and was effective in recruitment. There was a motion from the May 30th, 2013 MCDA meeting not to have a booth. Darryl made a motion, seconded by Mary Ellen to split the cost of the booth with DECD and the Maine Downtown Center. The motion passed. Deb said she would contact Roxanne Elfin to ask if she would be interested in sharing a booth.
3. **Report of Committees:**
 - a. **Professional development:** The annual meeting will be October 3, 2013 at Margarita's, Mike Duguay of Summit Natural Gas of Maine will speak on the natural gas pipeline, Darryl will be a back-up speaker in the event Mike has to cancel. We need a reservation brochure to be sent to the membership about six weeks before the meeting. Darryl and Joella Theriault will take care of the brochure. Deb stressed

that MCDA is assuming a role bigger than CDBG and is reaching out to others involved in economic and community development. She applauded this effort. Others suggested that we continue to seek more diverse speakers as we did for the May 30 meeting. Rodney said this is the direction the organization is going in.

- b. Membership:** There are 44 members. MMA will distribute the membership solicitation. It was suggested that we invite EMDC to join. Rockland has apparently not joined but Matt will follow up with John Holden. Camden will be joining.
 - c. Newsletter:** thanks to Joella for doing an outstanding job.
 - d. Web page redesign:** Tony made a motion to table this item and Darryl seconded. The motion passed.
 - e. Advocacy:** Deb said it was to keep stressing the value of the CDBG program to the Congressional delegation. While the Maine delegation is supportive of the program, it needs concrete examples of success stories to show colleagues who may be more skeptical about the program.
 - f. Nominations for executive committee:** The slate presented was Darryl Sterling, president; Gail Chase vice- president; Matthew Eddy, treasurer; Joella Theriault, secretary; and Tom Martin, Justin Poirier, and Suzie Paradis, members at large. The elections will take place at the annual meeting on October 3. Rodney thanked Gail, Tom and Tony for working on the slate and for doing it early.
- 4. CDBG Update and Report from DECD by Deb Johnson:** No money has been released yet for 2013. Four grant awards have been announced recently: Ashland (public facility) and EDP's for Anson, Gouldsboro, and Milo. No funds will be released for Gouldsboro until the first 40 jobs are created. The technical assistance providers will get an e-mail regarding their contracts. The approved T.A. budgets will be up to 50% of what was available last year. Once the award is signed by the Governor, DECD staff can encumber the contracts.
- a. Program Statement:** The goal for the 2014 Program Statement is to have it very similar to last year's. One possible change is to have quarterly application deadlines for Workforce Development and Micro-Enterprise projects. The 3,000 population threshold for housing is presently rescinded. Public Facilities applications will be reviewed using the same approach as last year. The OCD will be having training sessions with the Community Action Program agencies on the Home Repair Program.

The Public Hearing is currently scheduled for October 1 in Augusta. People can submit comments in writing. Deb stressed that the legislative approach to changing the program rules was not good. The comments need to come during the hearing. If there are no comments, the staff can't respond. There were no direct comments last year on the 3,000 population threshold for housing. DECD did respond to requests to restore the funding for the Downtown Center.

Next year all will be on line. The process will be much more formal. The planned changes this year are contingent on Department approval. Also the bonds for the Communities for Maine's Future have been released by the Governor.

5. **Other business:** congratulations to Tom Martin on his June 28 marriage. Debbie is going to Utah for the annual COSCDA meeting. She will have an update for us at the annual meeting.
6. Next meeting October 3, 2013, Margaritas in Augusta.
7. Tony motioned to adjourn, Darryl seconded. Motion passed.

Submitted by Thomas Martin, HCPC,

Acting Secretary