



Maine Community Development Association

**Thursday, June 10, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions by Tracey Desjardins, President MCDA 2019-2021

The Zoom meeting began at 10:08 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Tracey Desjardins, President	City of Gardner
Joella R. Theriault, Secretary	Northern Maine Development Commission
Nancy Ketch, Director	Town of Houlton
Jen Peters, Director	Sunrise County Economic Council
Darryl Sterling, Director	Economic Development Consultant
Tony Levesque, Member	Town of Fort Fairfield
Rodney Lynch, Member	Town of Thomaston
Vittoria Stevens	Town of Bradford
Stephen Dyer, Immediate Past President	Ransom Consulting, Inc.
EJ Roach, Member	City of Old Town
Galen Weibley, Member	City of Presque Isle
Ann Ball, Member	Maine Downtown Center
Deborah Johnson, Member	Office of Community Development, Director

2. Approval of April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Moved by T. Levesque and seconded by N. Ketch to approve the meeting minutes as presented; motion passed.

3. Treasurer's Report and Financials – March and April 2021: Moved by D. Sterling and seconded by J. Peters to approve the Financial Reports as presented; motion passed. The 2021 MCDA budget was also presented for approval. Motion passed.

4. Office of Community Development – Deborah Johnson:

a. Microenterprise Program: The CDBG Microenterprise (MEA) Program is modeled after the CARES Act program where it is processed through the Economic Development Districts. The actual 2021 funds are not yet available and so the program is not open but the maximum amount will be \$10,000. The application process will be to work with SBDC Advisor's. If any applicant has received CDBG monies prior, they will not be eligible for MEA funds. The MEA program's goal is to always have funding available at the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC). The program will have no

deadlines; will require that “No Prior CDBG Assistance” was provided; and will be on a point system, such as Business Plan (Yes or No); non-entitlement (Yes or No); Job Creation (Yes or No).

- b. In 2022, Office of Community Development (OCD) will start working with MaineHousing to schedule workshops regarding affordable housing. The City of Presque Isle will be the fiduciary and will work with Genesis on affordable housing. Funding is not yet in place but there are nine projects already identified for funding.
- c. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law on March 11 for \$65.1 billion of direct aid to America’s cities, towns and villages. Maine will receive direct allocations for metropolitan cities and allocations for non-entitlement units/communities will be disbursed through the state. States will distribute the allocations based on calculations such as the extent of reduction in revenue and assign priorities. While funding is available, there is a lack of capacity and guidance, such as eligibility for example. D. Johnson will pursue contacts to establish guidance and will report her findings.
5. **Secretary’s and Newsletter Report – Joella R. Theriault** - J. Theriault is working on the next newsletter that is expected to be finalized the first week of July. Ann Ball will send articles for the newsletter and other members are encouraged to submit articles as well.
6. **Membership Report – Tony Levesque** – T. Levesque reported that there are currently 36 members. He encouraged everyone to reach out to New CDBG Grantees. T. Levesque also reported that 8 to 10 former members should be contacted to renew membership – Hancock County Planning Commission, Old Town (EJ Roach stated that he has begun the application process), Washington County Council of Government, Camden, Easton, Caribou, Kennebunk, Penquis County Action Program, and Wright-Pierce. Joan Walton of Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments attended a recent meeting and should be contacted to become a member.
7. **Professional Development Committee Report** – Discussion on a face-to-face meeting in August with potentially partnering with OCD for an Appreciation Day/MCDA meeting in Augusta. An August 6 meeting date is proposed and a subcommittee including T. Levesque, T. Desjardins, S. Dyer and D. Sterling will finalize the meeting details. Also discussed was the workshop topics for the MMA Convention; i.e. Connecting Resources for Post-Pandemic, morning session and afternoon session or one session!
8. **Next Meeting Date: August 6, 2021**
9. **Adjourn** – Moved by T. Levesque and seconded by D. Sterling to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted by,

Joella R. Theriault
MCDA Secretary