

July 2021- Monthly Public Report  
Brian Doyle

All items listed below have been accomplished or are in progress

**Projects:**

**Web Page Development:**

Businesses are very busy at this time and not responding to my request for photos. Have begun taking photos to be used on the town's website and FB page and Thomaston Main Street's (TMS's) FB page. Will continue to work with Sally Fuller and Mike Curtis to coordinate efforts.

**Spotlight on Excellence:**

Followed up with Brooks Trapp Mill, Thomaston Grocery and Thomaston Place Auction Galleries. Kaja Veilleux encouraged me to reconnect to his employees about the idea. Have not heard back from others

**Thomaston Main Street: (TMS)**

Held two meetings in July to discuss the following ideas:

**Ribbon Cutting day:** OceanSide Nutrition is now open. Will schedule a time for a ribbon cutting photo. Encouraged owner Brandy Simmons to connect with Maine SBDC or Coastal Enterprises for assistance with her business plan. Also encouraged her to set time aside to speak with Diane Giese and I about marketing ideas. Discussed Thomaston Main Street with her and she agreed to participate.

**Music Behind the Block:** Invested extensive time into pulling together this series. Identified sponsors and secured funding. Identified artists who will be performing. The Block Saloon and Flipside Coffee will be providing food at some of the concerts. Worked with Sally Fuller on creating a poster to promote the series. Posted this information on the following sites: Free Press & Village Soup, Thomaston Library newsletter, Thomaston web page and FB page, Thomaston 4<sup>th</sup> of July FB Page. Contacted local schools (including Camden High) and larger Thomaston employers and requested they share concert schedule with their employees and students.

**Scavenger Hunt:** Invested significant time into planning, setting up and monitoring this event. Many thanks to the 19 merchants who participated and the 91 participants. Received assistance from Sally Fuller with designing the scavenger hunt form. Promoted this event with the following entities: Large employers in town, schools, Town web site and FB page, Thomaston 4<sup>th</sup> of July FB page, downtown merchants and sandwich board.

**Tommy The Moose:** Thomaston Main Street's Lindsey Pinkham has agreed to develop a plan to kick off the "Tommy The Moose" contest for later in the year.

**Zerbini Family Circus:** Handed out Scavenger Hunt forms at both Friday and Saturday shows. Feedback from Recreation Director Rene Door and Select Board member Pete Lammert was that attendance at the shows was good.

**Downtown Beautification:** Receiving feedback about needing more attention with weeding, adding more color to the flower beds and cleaning up sidewalks of cigarette butts and dog waste. Many thanks for what has been done thus far by volunteers. The improvements are noticed. Concern expressed that more help is needed. Will review budget for items listed above and discuss this with Town Manager Kara George.

**Art on Main Street:** Continued interest remains on the TMS committee to plan an art-based event this year. Will be coordinating a press event to unveil the mural created by Nancy Baker at Thomaston Grocery. Plan to follow up this event with a conversation involving the artists and art lovers in attendance to discuss ideas to pursue.

(Examples: Art Week: Celebrating of art involving classes, exhibiting and selling art- involving local youth with planning process to engage them etc.) Hoping to identify someone to head this up. Will contact a local artist who is well connected to other artists in the region to initiate the discussion.

### **Broadband:**

Attended a monthly meeting of the Mid-Coast Internet Coalition, (MIC) an entity seeking to develop a non-profit, community-owned, open access broadband organization. Otelco, an ISP new to the Midcoast, is interested in providing broadband services to the mid-coast region. Otelco's plans are a concern to MIC leadership as Otelco has acquired VC funding to support their expansion plans. These plans could negatively impact MIC's goals to create an open access community owned network. MIC plans to continue efforts to seek funds that will keep their plans on track.

Supported with information on broadband resources by Mia Purcell Vice President of Economic Development and Impact at CCFC. Ms. Purcell's knowledge on all things broadband is invaluable.

### **Site Search:**

Performing site searches for two businesses. Made introductions to landlords on behalf of both businesses. Had follow up conversations with both and have learned that one is slowing down their search while the other is making good progress. Will remain connected to them both as their plans unfold.

### **Rising Tide Boxing**

Laurie Gold has approval from the Planning Board to open her fitness facility at 144 Main Street in September. She will teach fitness and boxing techniques. I've spoken to Ms. Gold and learned she has over a decade of experience running a similar business on the west coast. Referred her to Maine SBDC/Score or CEI for assistance with her business plan and marketing needs.

**Laurel's Dolce Vita:** Spoke with Laurel Christopher about her plans to open a bakery at 350 Main Street. Learned she has the financing lined up and has experience at another bakery. Encouraged her to develop a business plan with Assistance with Maine SBDC or Coastal Enterprises as this is the first business she will own.

**Oceanside Nutrition:** Introduced myself to Brandy Simmons, owner of Oceanside Nutrition at her 159 Main Street location. Welcomed her to Thomaston and offered assistance with her needs. Ms. Simmons indicated she was all set for the moment but would contact me should that change. Encouraged her to attend the Thomaston Main Street meetings as a way to get connected to her peers on Main Street. She expressed an interest in doing so once things settled down. Offered to have a ribbon cutting ceremony at a future date and to schedule a time for Select Board Chair Diane Giese and I to meet with her to discuss marketing ideas for her business. She agreed to both.

### **Placement of Lighted Crosswalk Signs on RT 1/Downtown:**

Reconnected with Stephen Landry of MDOT and was able to acquire remaining information necessary to complete the RRFB application. Will review this application with town manager Kara George to review possible expenses and installation timeline. Requested information from Mr. Landry on installation requirements and he referred me to Rockland who recently installed one of these units.

### **Marketing Open Retail /Commercial Locations:**

Once we have our FB page live, we will inform local landlords of our interest in posting information on available Retail/Commercial space for rent.

**Dredging Project for St George River Channel:**

Since submitting an updated dredging application, I've followed up twice with Mark Cutter from the Army Corp of Engineers to inquire when we will be meeting. He indicated they were reviewing applications and would get back to me. Senator Collins was able to include in next year's federal budget a request of \$75,000 to support the survey costs of the entire dredging project. We appreciate their support of the project and continue to look for additional grant funds.

**Lowe's 100 Hometown Grant:**

We did not receive any funds from this grant program.

**Midcoast Economic Development District:**

After interviewing multiple candidates, a lengthy discussion with the Search Committee and the MCEDD Board did not result in a consensus for the next Executive Director. The Board will meet in a special meeting to identify and prioritize next steps MCEDD must undertake, create a revised job description and reopen a job search.

**Thomaston Job Fair:**

We are exploring an early September date for the job fair. Will contact Career Center colleague David Grimes and discuss the date with him.

**Zoom Meetings/Meetings**

- Weekly CCFC Staff and Loan Committee
- Weekly CCFC Technical Assistance Team
- Weekly call with CCFC Supervisor Mia Purcell
- CCFC in person meeting in Norway
- Thomaston Select Board
- Thomaston Economic Development Committee
- Watts Block Trustees
- Mid-Coast Economic Development District Board of Directors
- Midcoast Economic Development District Executive Director Search Committee
- Saco Main Street -Board of Trustees
- Mid-Coast Internet Coalition
- Knox County Workforce Development Coalition
- Meetings with Charlie Grover regarding ongoing economic development projects

**Follow up emails/conversations with:**

Jeff's Marine-Thomas Turansky	Lyman-Morse	Coastal Cards
Coastal Mountain Chiropractic	Custom Coatings-Bob McCrea	Lyman-Morse- Bob Armstrong
Stephen Landry-Maine DOT	Tallie Foster-Trekkers	Amy Morey -Landlord
Peter Lammert	Thomaston Grocery-John Vigue	Rockland Ford
Senator Collins Office	Mia Purcell-CCFC	Allison MacMillan-Highland Foods
Julie Hashem-MCEDD	Brandy Sommers	Ross Levett- Ross Levett Antiques
Bill Hahn	Charlie Grover	Matt Graham- Lyman-Morse
Debra Hall/Matt Seigel- MIC	Sandra Hoekstra	Jane Weintraub
Tom Peaco- Pen Bay Chamber	Rabbi Lilly Solochek	Martin Farrell
CCFC	Kaja Veilleux	John Alexander
Scott Yakovenko	Jaimie Steeves	Sandra Hoekstra

**Introductory Calls/Emails**

Claudia Rossi

Laurie Gold

Krista Watts

Matt Bonner

**On site visits:**

Blueberry Moose

Epifanes

Flipside Café

Athen's Pizza

Coastal Mountain Chiropractic

Thomaston Market

Custom Coatings

Hoffman's

Spindrift Massage

Ross Levett Antiques

Dance N' Art Studio

Brooks Trap Mill

The Block Saloon

OceanSide Middle School

Thomaston Primary School