

Approved 2/16/23

**Economic Development Committee
Minutes
01/19/23**

Board Present: Charlie Grover, Diane Giese, Ben Griffin, Kendray Rodriguez, Chris Rector, John Fancy, Bill Hahn, Jon Eaton, and Kara George

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. in the Select Board Room.

Minutes

ACTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 17, 2022 minutes. VOTE: All in favor.

Kendray Rodriguez, Economic Development Coordinator Report

The first Downtown Christmas Festival event had an attendance of approximately 40 people.

TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Workshop

The Town Manager will contact Mat Eddy from Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG) to present a TIF 101 workshop for the Select Board and the Economic Development Committee.

CDS (Congressional Discretionary Spending) Project Funding

CDS funds are slated for the harbor dredging project and the Watts Block renovation project. The Watts Hall Community Arts group are holding a funding campaign to raise matching funds towards the \$300,000 CDS grant.

The EDC reviewed language for a town meeting warrant article requesting matching Dragon TIF funds for the Watts Block renovation project.

ACTION: Charlie Grover made a motion, seconded by Chris Rector to have the EDC make a recommendation for the Watts Block renovation project warrant article. VOTE: All in favor.

The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th and the special town meeting is Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

Thomaston Green Recommendation

The EDC discussed the outcome of the three Thomaston Green workshops that were facilitated by Mat Eddy of MCOG, and what next steps the EDC wants to recommend. The EDC will draft a warrant article question to submit to the Select Board for consideration.

Housing Initiatives

Maine Working Homes is bidding at the auction for the 31-33 Booker Street property. They plan to renovate the property to include up to 7 units, and are currently collaborating with Knox Clinic on the potentially leasing space to the clinic on a temporary basis.

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John Fancy updated the EDC on the TR3 housing project. The Town has met with three potential developers that include Maine Working Homes, Habitat for Humanities, and the Midcoast Housing Trust. Infrastructure is needed to support development. Further investigation is needed, and John is recommending hiring Landmark to do a preliminary survey.

ACTION: A motion was made and seconded to bring the TR3 project to the Select Board for further review. VOTE: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.