

April 2021- Monthly Public Report
Brian Doyle

All items listed below have been accomplished or are in progress

Projects:

Web Page Development:

Working with Deputy Clerk Sally Fuller to determine options to retain businesses that have been highlighted on web page. Have contracted several businesses with invitations to submit materials for the Spotlight on Excellence web page. Continue to look for photos to be used that will sharpen both the Economic Development and Town web page.

Downtown Committee:

Held an initial meeting the downtown merchants who are interested addressing the following issues: Creating a FaceBook page to market what's happening in the downtown, Hosting COVID friendly events that will attract families to the downtown, sprucing up the downtown to encourage more people to stop and not just drive through town, identify shared marketing efforts to allow merchants to advertise collectively.

A follow up meeting reviewed ideas such as asking for sponsorships to host some acoustic events in August, what name we seek to call this group, creating a fun find "Tommy The Teddy Bear" contest later in the year, Thinking about ways to attract customers to the downtown while a circus is in town later this summer and ideas for our FaceBook page

Planning on connecting to landlords next week on issues raised by town and merchants from an earlier meeting. Initial response from landlords indicates it will be hard to hold one meeting and get a decent turnout. Will communicate with landlords separately if needed to get their feedback on items proposed to the merchants.

Sandy Moore informed me that the Thomaston Garden Club selected April 30 and May 1 as dates for weeding and planting flowers in the raised beds. Shared this with the committee.

Spoke to Pete Lammert about flags that he hangs annually in the downtown. Will approach him about keeping the flags up for the entire summer and fall to bring more color to the downtown

Spoke with Daryl Hahn about getting a list of artists who would support bringing outdoor art to the downtown. Provided a list of artists by Peggy McCrea and I'll connect with them to brainstorm some ideas for them to consider.

Contacted the Prison Store to see how much the Adirondack chairs cost and possibly other items that could be purchased that would make the downtown more inviting for shoppers.

Broadband:

Continue to participate in Zoom meetings on broadband hosted by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, Maine Broadband Coalition and Bangor Daily News. Attended a monthly meeting of the Mid-Coast Internet Coalition, (MIC) entity seeking to develop a non-profit community owned broadband organization. Receiving several emails in preparation for our Select Board workshop with Brian Lippold of Casco Bay Advisors. Multiple correspondences with MIC leadership.

Site Search:

Performed multiple site searches for businesses seeking to move to Thomaston. Thus far, no options have worked. Will continue to search should a better rental space becomes available.

Placement of Lit Crosswalk Signs on RT 1/Downtown:

Speaking with a Maine Department of Transportation officials to request assistance with purchasing and installing cross walks that light up. Working on completing an application for the flashing signs.

Marketing Open Retail /Commercial Locations:

Contacting landlords who have available Retail/Commercial space for rent. Seeking to post this information on the Downtown Thomaston Facebook page instead of the town page to support our business community in the hopes of quickly filling available space.

Dredging Project for St George River Channel:

Continue to gather information for the dredging application. Contacting business to provide letters in support of the project. Drafting these letters on their behalf as many are too busy to focus time on this request.

Dragon Cement Land Swap:

Participated in a walk through of the properties involved with Army Corp of Engineers and Maine Department of Environmental Protection Officials. Progress made during the site visit on the proposed swap. Participated in a follow up meeting with Dragon Officials about the land swap that was received well. John Fancy agreed to follow up with Dragon on recommendations made by Army Corp to move the project along.

Lowe's 100 Hometown Grant:

Identified a grant that would support a portion of the improvements needed for the Watts Block. Created an initial draft of the application and worked with Daryl and Bill Hahn to submit a final version. Visited Lowe's Store with Bill Hahn to speak with Assistant Manager Phil Parker and inform him of our grant application. Forwarded a hard copy of the application to Mr. Parker and requested he share this with the store manager and a regional Lowe's manager

Zoom Meetings/Meetings

Weekly CCFC Staff and Loan Committee

Weekly CCFC Technical Assistance Team

Weekly call with CCFC Supervisor Mia Purcell

State of Maine Chamber of Commerce Zoom meeting on Broadband- 3rd is a series of 4

Bangor Daily News series on Broadband

Thomaston Select Board

Thomaston Economic Development Committee

Watts Block Trustees

Mid-Coast Economic Development District Board of Directors

Saco Main Street -Board of Trustees

Saco Main Street -Business Vitality Committee

Mid-Coast Internet Coalition

Knox County Workforce Development Coalition

Camden Rotary Meeting- 2nd event on housing needs

Weekly meeting with Charlie Grover regarding ongoing economic development projects

Maine Broadband Coalition

Monthly Maine Department of Economic Development Meeting

Thomaston Masons

Follow up emails/conversations with:

Jeff's Marine	Lyman-Morse	Flagship Cinema
Maine Marine Composites	GirtsResell Sports Enthusiast	Coastal Mountain Chiropractic
Schooner Hindu	Custom Coatings	Lyman- Morse
Epifanes	Doug Erickson	Thomaston Family Dentistry
Maine MEP	Amy Morey	Peter Lammert
Supercuts	Rockland Ford	Chambers Jewelers & Gemologist
Jake Ward- U Maine	Thomaston Grocery	

Introductory Calls/E-mails

Jim Delemeter	Jessica Sheppard	Jane Weintraub	Allison MacMillan
Maria Povec	Jen Brickett-MDOT	Spectrum	Jenny McNeal

On site visits:

Blueberry Moose	Epifanes	Flipside Café	Athen's Pizza
Blue Maple Systems	Coastal Mountain Chiropractic	Thomaston Market	Custom Coatings
Camden National Bank	Creative Images Hair Salon	Spindrift Massage	Edward Jones
Thomaston Café	Lowe's		