

Mt Desert Township EDC
Minutes
January 9th, 2020

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Discussion of the Promenade Park Project

- This is not the time to push the project forward
- We should wait at least a year for the Main St. project to be completed and for the dust to settle to decide if and when to move forward with the PPP
- Meanwhile, we need to communicate the status of the project to the people who have donated funds to support it.

EDC finances

- We have \$56K in the bank
- We need to file a 990
- We need to renew our D&O liability

Maine Broadband Coalition

- The town is now a member of the state broadband coalition

Community Foundation event in Skowhegan

- Organized in conjunction with the National Main Street Center (NMSC)
- Attended by Kathy Miller and Jamie Blaine
- The event featured presentations by local businesses that are participating in the Skowhegan renaissance
- Additional information was provided by entities, such as the Community Foundation, that have provided support services
- The event provided a great deal of instructive information on Skowhegan's efforts to create itself as a retail destination, focusing on successes and challenges
 - o Significantly, this is not about 'stuff'; it is about providing 'experiences' to the public...
- The NMSC provides technical assistance to interested and eligible communities that are pursuing town-center economic development initiatives
- There is an opportunity for us to participate in the NMSC offering
 - o The EDC does not have staff to pursue application
 - o The EDC is a facilitator, not necessarily an instigator
 - o Perhaps it would be useful to identify obstacles to business formation in the township. We need to be supportive of enterprise and initiative

Broadband

- Casco Bay Advisors, a broadband development consulting group that has been active in Bar Harbor and elsewhere regionally, has offered to participate in the next EDC meeting
- Beyond receiving general information, it may be of particular interest to discuss the opportunity to connect and coordinate with Bar Harbor on the extension of a 'dark fiber' network
 - o This relates to BH's efforts to plug in to the 'three-ring-binder' fiber network
 - o Coordination with BH could result in cost savings for MDT

NEH Medical Center Update (regarding the effort to better utilize the space and deliver desired medical services to the NEH community)

- The Seacoast Mission is happy to join the conversation. However, their focus is on telemedicine; therefore, the location of the medical professionals that they work with is not location sensitive...
- The Bar Harbor hospital provides urgent care staff at the medical center on a seasonal basis
 - o The medical center effectively pays the hospital to be there, covering any budgetary shortfalls incurred
- Getting any other medical professionals to occupy the building is likely to require similar inducement

D&O Renewal

- Will cost \$902 and is recommended by Dan McKay (primarily as a means of protecting the town funds that we have on account)

The next meeting of the EDC will be held on April 8th, 2020