

**Economic Development Committee**  
**August 26, 2019, 5:30 P.M**  
**Town of Mount Desert Town Office Meeting Room**

**Attending:** Dan McKay, Matt Hart, Jackie Hewett, Durlin Lunt, Kathy Miller, Martha Dudman, Nancy Ho, Jamie Blaine (via Zoom), Stephanie Reece, Heather Jones, Seth Singleton, Averel Wilson (via Zoom) Wendy Wood, Don Graves, Rick Wheeler

**Absent:** Sam McGee, Minot Weld, Tony Smith

Dan McKay brought the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

**Topics Discussed**

1. **EDC Officers:** Dan reviewed the proposed slate of officers for the Economic Development Committee (EDC). Dan has agreed to chair the committee for at least a year. The following slate was proposed:
  - Dan McKay – Chairman
  - Wendy Wood – Vice Chair
  - Minot Weld – SecretaryThe Committee unanimously approved the proposed slate of officers
2. **Remote Participation:** Regarding Maine regulations that limit the roles of government-related committee (in this case, the EDC as a newly created Town Standing Committee) members physically not present at a scheduled meeting. Durlin noted that the town attorney will be advising the EDC concerning the extent to which EDC members attending remotely (via phone or Zoom) can participate in EDC meetings. He believes that members participating remotely may not be included when determining if a quorum is present and will not be permitted to vote. However, they will be allowed to actively participate in discussions. Durlin will confirm back to the committee. The town attorney will be preparing guidelines regarding remote participation for review by the BOS.
3. **Quorum:** Because of this regulation, Jackie noted that the EDC might have trouble fielding a quorum, particularly during the winter months. The EDC voted and approved reducing a quorum from seven members to five members. Jackie will update the ECD's Mission and Structure document to reflect the approved five-member quorum.
4. **EDC Public Info Meeting:** The Committee reviewed the purpose and agenda of the public information meeting scheduled for 6 PM on Monday, September 9. The Committee approved the three documents that Jackie created as possible handouts at the meeting: a poster advising of the Sept 9 meeting; the ECD – Who we are; What is the Town of Mount Desert Community Development Corporation (the CDC). The committee agreed that these documents should be disseminated before the Sept 9 meeting by posting the notices in prominent places, by being included on the Town's website on the EDC page, and by asking the Summer Residents

Association to email its membership encouraging them to attend the meeting and attaching the three documents to the email.

Dan will be the MC. He will explain that the meeting is primarily for the EDC to listen to ideas from the community and to answer any questions. The EDC specifically would like community input as to whether the EDC's areas of focus (upgrading Broadband, creating links between the harbor and Main Street, enhancing the shoulder seasons, addressing zoning and infrastructure issues relating to economic development, improving marketing, working closely with the Chamber of Commerce and local non-profits, etc.) are the appropriate goals and priorities of the EDC.

Dan will say a few words about the Community Development Corp (CDC), its mission, funding, directors, etc.

Dan hopes that citizens from all the villages and members of the Chamber of Commerce will attend the meeting.

5. **Promenade Park:** Dan updated the committee on the Promenade Park presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Martha and Matt confirmed that it was very well received by the BOS. If there is a decision to go forward with the Promenade Park, it will need to be put on the warrant for Town Meeting in May of 2020 since the Town will have to accept receiving the park.
6. **Asset inventory:** It was suggested that there should be a readily accessible inventory list of possible locations for new businesses. This information and other business attraction assistance is generally provided by a town's economic development department. It was noted that little money exists for this type of work but the Committee will revisit this issue as it moves forward.
7. **Next meetings:** September 9, 6 PM Public Information Meeting
  - i. October 9, 5:30 PM EDC meeting

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Rick Wheeler  
Acting Secretary