

27 May, 2020 CDC Meeting Minutes

- Meeting called to order
- Previous meeting minutes approved
 - Suggestion that the committee communicate with the people who donated funds supporting the proposed NEH promenade to explain delays in the project
 - Committee members should contact the individual donors whom they originally solicited.
- Discussion of Corona-related impacts:
 - The 14-day quarantine-in-place order is still in place
 - The Chamber is working (in conjunction with others) to get that shortened.
 - The current volume of business in the township is a small percentage of what it would normally be.
 - It is impossible to predict how the season will develop.
 - The Summer Residents Association has raised over \$800,000 for local business relief.
 - Funds are likely to be disbursed in June.
 - Suggestion that the Committee write a letter to the Governor to propose modification of the quarantine order.
 - The quarantine requirement is the real bottleneck restricting business
 - We could propose that the state permit tourists to quarantine in rentals
 - Suggestion to close off Main Street, as other towns are doing, to allow businesses to operate outdoors.
 - The original Main St. plan called for the creation of outdoor seating areas.
 - This idea was tabled due to concerns about impact on parking availability.
 - Perhaps it would make sense to speak with the town about reviving this proposal?
 - Perhaps we could close Main Street at night, say from 7 to 9 pm.
 - One of the fundamental things that the town and local businesses need to address is the fear of residents and seasonal visitors that they will be exposed to the virus.
- MDI 365 Update:
 - The Seacoast Mission building project has experienced Covid-related delays; it is hoped that construction will be completed early fall.
- Broadband
 - The need for universal, high-speed internet is highlighted by the pandemic crisis.
 - A broadband consultant is available to speak with the committee to present options and to discuss the paths taken by neighboring towns.
 - It is agreed that we should ask the consultant to attend an upcoming meeting

- We need to identify successful projects that have been undertaken in the state before we commit public funds to broadband development.
- NEH Medical Center
 - The Bar Harbor has not yet stated its summer hours
 - Meanwhile, a physician has taken space in the building.
 - It is hoped that his practice will grow to serve the town on a year-round basis.
- MDI Covid response
 - Jackson Lab is developing a pilot project to provide Covid testing.
 - They are working to reduce the costs of the program.
 - The initial focus will be on testing restaurant and other service personnel.
 - Meanwhile, face masks have been ordered for distribution.
 - Note: the Committee should communicate to the SRA membership that these steps are being taken, thus allaying concerns about virus exposure.
- Meeting adjourned.
- Next meeting scheduled for July 8th at 4 pm.