



**Economic Development Committee
October 26, 2022
Bath City Hall Auditorium
MEETING MINUTES**

Attendees: Jennifer DeChant, Ben Averill, Emily Ruger, Lauren O'Reilly, Michael Walton, Michael Mason, Chris Timm, Jon Fitzgerald, Aaron Park, Marc Meyers

Absent: Amanda McDaniel

Guests: Jamie Dorr, Doran Wright

Approval of Minutes: Motion seconded and passed. Timm abstained.

Presentation by Midcoast Youth Center: Jamie Dorr provided an overview of Midcoast Youth Center, the Working Communities Challenge, and a Workforce Development initiative.

Microcapital Loan: The Bath Development Corporation has launched a program to offer loan to small businesses for capital expenses. Loans are up to \$7,500 with a two year repayment. Start ups may apply but preference is given to businesses open for 6 months.

Business Survey: DeChant would like to survey businesses. MSB typically does business surveys every 2-3 years. MSB Economic Vitality Committee is looking into what the previous surveys have looked like. This is likely a 2023 activity. A survey by the Economic Development Committee should reach businesses beyond the downtown. Also, it was suggested that an attempt to reach remote workers and home businesses be made.

Bath Fiber Optic Alliance: The Bath Fiber Optic Alliance is a newly formed group interested in advocating for the expansion of fiber infrastructure to those households not included in the current build out of GoNetSpeed fiber, which is about 500 households in North and South Bath. The Alliance is going to apply for a planning grant to get understanding of what the options are.

Comp Plan: The City is going to hire a consultant for the final phase of wrapping up the Comp Plan process. It is expected that a few public meetings will occur in the next few months and that the plan is wrapped up by summer.

Motorcoach Network: Ruger has contacted with Chiara Moriconi from the Maine Office of Tourism. Chiara will be able to present in November.

MCOG strategic planning: Meyers will facilitate setting up a meeting in December with MCOG to share about their strategic plan with the Committee.

Next meeting:

- November 22nd 2022

- December 20th was suggested (instead of December 27th). Board members should let Ruger know if they cannot attend.

Motion to adjourn 6:11PM

EBR 10/26/2022