

Community Development Committee
April 16, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes
2:00 PM City Hall Auditorium

Present: Karl Albrecht; Claire Berkowitz, Gretchen Jaeger; Jennifer DeChant, Melissa Farrington Fochesato, Chris Marks
Absent: Andrew Francis;
Staff Present: Misty Parker
Guests: Nate Miller

1. Welcome – Committee welcomed Nate Miller from Bath Savings Bank.
2. Approval of March Minutes- Berkowitz motioned to accept the minutes; DeChant seconded. All in favor.
3. Equity Assessment – planning for additional community input. Two public meetings were hosted; one at Fisher Mitchell and one online. Committee commented on low attendance. People may be disconnected. Conversation was nice but need to drill down where the people are.

Rotary & Main Street were mentioned; the Committee needs to go where people are that are active or engaged. Maritime Apartments, United way with head start parents, Plant Home, Winship. Reframe the invitation to be more explicit with the intent of the meeting.

Schedule third meeting at 5/5:30 start? Outreach to smaller groups was suggested. The committee will follow up with Dustin on the survey.

4. Community Development Priorities and Focus Areas – Jaeger reviewed revised mission; Committees mandate is not to solve unhoused, food insecurity, and not reinvent the wheel. Committee serves as city point of contact between organizations working to address these issues. Advise to City Council on related items. What areas does the committee take ownership of? Where does the committee partner and support. What is the committee’s role to general assistance?

Committee process for providing input on reviewing the future land use code needs to be defined and shared.

5. Other Updates as necessary

Sagadahoc County Board of Health reviewing has funding from the opioid settlement. This funding supports Bath Police Lead program, naloxone availability in Bath, and funds a community navigator for the community.

Warming Center in Brunswick- served average 20 people a night. Closed yesterday for the season.

It was also shared a recent article in NY times on rise in methamphetamine use. Concerns were shared about use increasing in our area but data has not demonstrated a noticeable rise yet.

Marks motioned to adjourn; Jaeger seconded. All in favor.