



<b>ATTENDEE</b>	<b>POSITION/TITLE</b>
Chris Johnson	Vice Chair (Somerville)
Dick McLean	Treasurer (Damariscotta)
Michael Tomko	Secretary (Boothbay Harbor)
Gordon Davis	Board Member (Alna)
Nancy Prisk	Board Member (Southport)
Kristine Poland	Board Member (Bristol)
Frank Hample	Board Member (Somerville)
Marianne Pinkham	Board Member (Nobleboro)
Mal Carey	Board Member (Newcastle)
Bob Faunce	STAFF – County Planner
Mary Ellen Barnes	STAFF - Director of Economic & Community Development
Zach Mosher	STAFF – Community Development Specialist

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm, one shy of a quorum.

**MINUTES**

Without a quorum, these will be brought forward to the next Board meeting

**BUDGETS**

Chris asked about financial reports and Bob said he is roughly on schedule.

Bob mentioned that his budget had been slightly revised, indicating that DACT had approved further money to create a climate change toolbox to address SLR and flood zone concerns. He won't be doing the work, but only administering the contract. He also mentioned that he had been spending some of his DOT funds on a High Crash Location study. There was a question from Gordon about the HCL study and discussion followed regarding DOT policy, staff changes, funding, and work plan. In short, the DOT is becoming a much more insular entity.

Bob also indicated that DOT had not awarded any contracts and was likely not going to; they'll likely only fund special projects, otherwise they will be doing their own work.

Mary Ellen gave an update on the RPC and county budgets, explaining possible changes in the way the RPC's finances would appear in the 2017 County budget. She's working on spending the office supply line down as well as travel and a few other items before 2016 year is through. She also said the RPC would be exploring the possibility of purchasing mapping software next year.



Frank said that the budget is a public document and it should be clearer, specifically asking about the net profit line. Chris asked about backing out Bob's numbers from this report. Mary Ellen said that there would be changes in the way line items are identified and how Bob's County funds are shown in 2017 (these funds will be pulled out and presented as a separate account). We can track over- and under-spending throughout the year (which is what the net profit/loss shows), but we need to work with the financial reports the County Finance Office provides. One option is for Mary Ellen to use the County numbers in an unofficial excel format with footnotes, to help with any needed explanations.

### **PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

Bob mentioned that he had sent out a document concerning recommendations in light of the new marijuana legalization laws. He said that the MMA would be having a workshop in January or February on the municipal aspects of the legalization. There was discussion concerning the nature of moratoriums and whether they were advisable at this stage.

Mary Ellen mentioned that the RPC would be meeting and likely partnering with Healthy Lincoln County on a LC workshop, as HLC is concerned with the health impacts of the new laws/regulations.

Chris indicated how marijuana and its health impacts are regulated remains largely unknown and anticipates no retail sale of marijuana until possibly early 2018. Bob added that the state may not even think about rulemaking until after the state budget is passed in June.

Mary Ellen added that Healthy Lincoln County might want to advocate for moratoriums, while Chris cautioned that there are time limits to those moratoriums. Chris also added that HLC might want to share information with selectman and towns about the many implications of the new initiative.

Bob gave an update on King Tide results, saying he received over 1k photos. He hopes this would be great data, letting folks visualize what things look like during high tides in our towns, and what things might possibly look like with storm surge on top of those high tides.

Bob said he had received responses to an RFP for the engineering study of the Boothbay Harbor Waste Water Treatment Plant. He hopes to be interviewing in January for that project.

Mary Ellen gave an update on the Brownfields grant that the RPC is currently applying for, indicating our focus was on hazardous money, for the amount of 200k. There was also discussion on the RPC's involvement with Wiscasset and their cleanup grant focusing on Mason Station.

Mary Ellen mentioned the broadband workshop with Lincolville, Axiom, and ConnectME at the RPC office on January 19<sup>th</sup>. She hopes the workshop will address general broadband understanding and community needs in Lincoln County. She had decided not to invite lots of providers to the workshop in hopes of keeping it simple and informative. She hopes the session will provide ideas and direction for the County's role in broadband development.

Bob mentioned that DOT's 3-year workplan is due out in January. He plans to make towns aware of Bike/Ped grants awards as well as the new Bike/Ped funding program which addresses sidewalks, off-



road trails, pedestrian crossings, etc. DOT has a \$2.3 million budget for this program, requiring a 20% match. Applications are due in August 2017 with awards announced in 2018. The towns awarded money wouldn't be able to get the money until 2020 since the projects must go into the 3-year workplan. Bob said he would be contacting all the bike/ped committee members to let them know about this program and the financial complications given the DOT's timeframe.

Mary Ellen provided information about the workshops and trainings the RPC would be presenting, including a small business start-up workshop with Jaime Logan, David Hill, and Bill Card. Mary Ellen said that the RPC would be looking to develop more relationships/partners through these workshops. Topics for workshops include social media marketing and farms/fisheries, in addition to small business and economic development.

Mary Ellen updated everyone on the RPC's work with CDBG mentioning Zach's work with the micro-enterprise assistance program and downtown revitalization options for Waldoboro. She also updated the Board on our work with NC Hunt in Jefferson. They are hoping to purchase equipment to hold onto certain markets and to expand operations.

Mary Ellen then provided updates on the ASK grants. Alna received their money, but Damariscotta has not been able to revise their initial project and Mary Ellen is not expecting this to go forward. Mike added that ASK grant for Boothbay and Boothbay Harbor had been delayed a little and they have asked for an extension.

The meeting concluded with a town roundtable. Notably, Marianne provided details for events hosted by Spectrum Generations concerning mental health and obesity. Chris also said that Somerville is in the process of installing DSL through Verizon.

The unofficial meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.