

# Minutes

## Community Development Committee

For Meeting of May 6, 2015  
In BOS Room

The following are the minutes of the May 6 CDC meeting

The CDC decided to change its meeting time from 7am to 8am.

A review of the prior discussions of Town needs for recreation, senior and community services was conducted. The following actions were decided upon.

1. At its next meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> the CDC will take a field trip to see the Casco Community Center
2. On May 27 Brad Littlefield will be attending the CDC meeting to tell us how he and Fryeburg have raised over a Million dollars privately to fund a new Community Center to be independent of the Town.

The Town agreed to provide Phyllis a letter to designate her as a Town representative when she approaches schools to find students to undertake a census of town recreational, community and senior needs.

Evan Miller made a presentation about his continuing research into the possibility of a town radio station. Information was exchanged to further the study by Evan.

A discussion about planning on the use of CDBG funds for 2015-16 for the purpose of making recommendations to the BOS resulted in the following:

1. Use of CDBG funds for service and social projects should be limited but not stopped. It was felt that the county views the use of monies to fund such programs in a favorable light. However, it also realized that in some years using the funds for Town infrastructure needs may outweigh such funding. In summary the CDC recommends to the BOS that service and social projects continue to be funded but with the caveat that if Town projects require such funds first priority should be given to them.
2. The CDC recognized that the Town has a great need to enhance its infrastructure. The BOS last year made a decision to spend all available CDBG funds on Town projects. The CDC recommends that the BOS continues this policy. Recognizing that some infrastructure projects are large and lengthy the CDC embraces the Town Manager's idea of a five (5) rolling capital improvement plan. The CDC felt that planning will minimize conflict and maximize use of CDBG funds.
3. Having been designated the committee that CDBG rules require to review possible uses of such funds and having to do so at the 12<sup>th</sup> hour as the BOS did the CDC strongly recommends.
  - a. An early application process that would require all application to be completed by August 31.
  - b. That the appointed CDBG committee complete its review and make recommendations to the BOS by Sept 30.
  - c. That the BOS hold the required public meeting and make its decision concerning the use of CDBG funds for 2016-17 by October 31.

The committee observed that Bridgton was the last town in the county to submit its plan and then only on the last day. It was felt that Bridgton would gain respect by being early. It would also relieve stress on those participating in the process.

The CDC members expressed their feelings and share thoughts of Town citizens that feel when ideas are presented to the BOS they are

received with gratitude only to disappear into a black hole. One member expressed the thought that a magician makes something disappear only to make it reappear. The member felt that the BOS has only learned half the trick as they cannot make things reappear.

In discussing why subjects do not move forward quickly at the BOS level it was felt the first reason was that the town does not have a long term plan. It has a new strategic comp plan that the BOS has not embraced and it does not have a tactical plan to implement the goals of the comp plan. It was felt that the BOS deals with issues as they arise with little or no anticipation.

In discussing solutions the CDC arrived at the following recommendation for the BOS to consider. The CDC members observed that in the past 2 months the BOS had held 3 workshops; 2 for budget and 1 for Town Hall. As a result in an open discussion forum of ideas from member, experts and citizens conclusions were reached. At the subsequent BOS meetings motions were quickly made to implement those decisions. The workshops on one subject prevented the BOS meetings from become workshops on many subjects.

From these observations the CDC suggest to the BOS that it consider meeting only once a month and supplement that meeting with workshops on specific subjects as needed. It was felt that this would lead to greater subject understanding, better decisions resulting in long term planning and shorter BOS meetings.