

**FREEPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WEDNESDAY, November 20, 2013, 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
Freeport Community Center
MINUTES**

1. The meeting convened at 6:05 pm

In attendance: David Latulippe, Jeff Zachau, Wendy Caisse, Adam Nappi, Sarah Tracy, Corey Bouyea, Betsy Ruff

Absent: Drew Sachs, Peter Troast, Mark Malone, Chip Gray, Candice Rinaldi, Peter Joseph, Jim Cassida

Guests: Mac Lloyd, Roben Voight

2. Introductory comments

Wendy indicated she would be acting as President in Drew's absence. She acknowledged the attendance of guests Mac Lloyd and Roben Voight and welcomed them.

3. Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of MINUTES of October 22, 2013 meeting

2. Acceptance of FINANCIAL STATEMENT for period ending October 31, 2013.

Adam moved and Betsy seconded approval of the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous of those present and voting.

4. Executive Director's Report

Keith mentioned that a joint meeting of FEDC and the Planning Board would be scheduled for January or February, and said he would let the board know the date when it was set. The purpose would be to look at the Vision 2025 Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, and to look for common priorities. This conversation would be a part of the Planning Board's process of setting new potential action items for the coming year. Keith also indicated that this meeting was suggested by the Town Council following their receipt of the Vision 2025 plan. Sarah encouraged the Board to continue pursuing Vision 2025 and advising the Council, town board, etc., on their activities. She was glad this meeting would be taking place. Keith also discussed some of his current efforts in working with some new local businesses, and implementing a new "Business Visitation" effort, as recommended in Action item A.1 in Vision 2025. He visited Grace Robinson & Co., Jacqueline's Tea Room and Beansprouts Daycare. Keith also described his efforts in exploring the feasibility of having a co-working/shared office space in Freeport, and mentioned that many local residents and professionals have indicated an interest in being part of such a facility. Mac Lloyd spoke up and indicated that he would also like to have such a space for his work. David Latulippe encouraged Keith to focus on the end user, because if enough potential users existed, a developer might be convinced to put the project together. Keith disclosed that he would be spending \$150 on membership to the Maine Food Producers Alliance, as the Vision 2025 plan suggests. The board indicated that we should come back and revisit our expenditure in a year to determine if it was worthwhile. Keith also announced that on December 4, the Planning Board would have a public hearing on proposed amendments to the MD-A/MD-B zoning district. Wendy spoke to the changes that were being considered and why.

5. Accept Resignation of Clay Bouton

Keith read an e-mail he received from Clay Bouton which indicated he could no longer continue in his role as a Director. Betsy moved to accept Clay's resignation with gratitude for his service and best wishes. Adam seconded. The vote was unanimous of those present and voting.

6. Discussion Regarding Director Appointment Process

With the resignation of Clay Bouton, Keith indicated, the board needed to consider its appointment process. He reminded the board that a "Membership Election Policy" had been enacted on July 23, 2013, which created a Membership Committee who would consider any interested persons or nominees when a vacancy exists. Keith also read some thoughts from Drew who wanted to voice his opinion on this matter, even though he could not attend the meeting. Drew felt that vacancies should be filled once per year, at the annual meeting absent some urgent need. He supported continued operation of a membership committee, but suggested that the President be a member of the committee, and that the Executive Director also work closely with the committee in its evaluation of candidates. Wendy suggested that the Executive Director should keep a pool of interested candidates, and

have an on-going search or an application of interest constantly posted on the FEDC website and available at town hall. Corey preferred that the board fill vacancies as needed, like an employer would, and not limit it to once per year. Keith pointed out that the policies required a committee, but none had been formed. And he also suggested that there be a set of guidelines or qualifications to give the committee direction when considering candidates. Adam moved to appoint Peter T. and Chip Gray members of the committee along with the President, and Wendy seconded. The vote passed with only David Latulippe voting in opposition. Sarah Tracy asked to be kept informed on the activities of this committee, and requested that she be invited to the committee meeting as an interested board member. Keith indicated he would extend her the invite.

7. Adjourn

Before adjourning, Wendy invited Roben Voight and Mac Lloyd to make any closing remarks. Roben encouraged the board to consider that the community would need to shift its focus to education and to cooperation between the town government and school district, because strong schools result in a strong community. He stated that this shift would mean turning less attention to the business community, but suggested that bringing FEDC's efforts towards helping the school might help FEDC with its communication issues. David Latulippe stated his agreement, and added that schools will make the difference. Wendy stated that these were interesting times in Freeport because of the pending RSU withdrawal question, but reminded everyone that FEDC was not a body that controlled any resources, that it was merely an advisory body. Roben indicated that he would support a reduction in the amount allocated to FEDC, because it would help the community add more resources to the schools. Keith explained that since FEDC's allocation comes out of TIF funds, the money could not be cut from FEDC's allocation and re-allocated to schools, fire/police, municipal facilities or public works. State law controls how TIF money can be spent, and does not allow for such re-allocation without some additional costs/penalties. Sarah Tracy suggested a FAQ section on FEDC's website to explain basic misunderstandings about FEDC's funding structure, and its relationship with TIF, as well as other issues.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35