

**FREEPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, November 19, 2014, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Freeport Community Library
MINUTES**

1. The Meeting Convened at 7:15

In attendance: Jim Cassida, Adam Nappi, Ed Bradley, Dave Latulippe, Betsy Ruff, Candice Rinaldi, Scott Gleeson

Absent: Wendy Caisse, Mary Davis, Zane Shatzer, Peter Troast, Chip Gray, Mark Malone

2. Introductory comments

Candice Rinaldi (running the meeting with the President's seat empty and Vice President Wendy Caisse absent) had no introductory comments.

3. Consent Agenda Items

The board elected to consider each Consent Agenda item separately.

1. Approval of MINUTES of October 28, 2014 meeting

Besty moved and David seconded approval of the minutes as printed. The vote was unanimous of all those present and voting.

2. Acceptance of FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the period ending October 31, 2014

David moved and Adam seconded the acceptance of the Financial Report as submitted. The vote was unanimous of all those present and voting.

4. Economic Development Report

Keith presented a written report, taking a suggestion from some board members. He added he would continue to do this, if it was the board's preference. Board members agreed it was preferable, and Keith encouraged them to read the report and voice any questions or concerns they might have about its contents.

5. Nomination and Election of FEDC Board President

Keith reminded the board that Drew Sachs had resigned, leaving a vacant seat on the board, but also leaving the board without a sitting president. Adam nominated Jim Cassida for president, and spoke to Jim's lengthy participation in FEDC as a member of the board, and also his excellent record of public service in Freeport. Adam moved his election, and Betsy seconded. The vote was unanimous of all those present and voting.

6. Nomination of Andrew Kull, Esq., for Vacant Board Seat

Keith reminded the board that Andy Kull had been applicant for a vacant board seat in the summer (seats were eventually filled by Mary Davis and Ed Bradley) and that the nominating committee had been very impressed with Andy's work with other non-profits, and with his professional resume. Andy is a Freeport resident, and an attorney who practices in commercial and real estate law with a well-known Portland firm. Keith had requested new applications for the seat during the months of October and November, and received a few statements of interest, but had not received any applications. He had spoken with Andy, who remained interested in being on the board. Andy forwarded an e-mail (which Keith provided to the board) apologizing for his absence from this meeting, and expressing his continued interest in Freeport and FEDC. David moved Andy's nomination to the board, and Adam seconded. Keith informed the board that Andy's official election would be on the agenda for the January board meeting.

7. Marketing Project Proposal

Keith presented a memo describing a rough idea for a marketing strategy around specialty food producers. The idea, he explained, arose from the suggestions made in the Vision 2025 plan. Keith explained that though the property inventory did not support the location of light manufacturing (because of more-readily available and affordable spaces in Portland, Brunswick/Topsham and Lewiston/Auburn), his discussions with other specialty foods producers gave him the impression that there is a large advantage to being in Freeport for those businesses seeking an "experiential" production and retail location. As an example, Keith mentioned the Maine Beer Company brewery and tasting room, and Wilbur's Chocolate Factory on Lower Main Street. Businesses seeking a location that invites customers to experience and see the production and taste the outcome are

generally willing to pay more than manufacturing-only lease rates, and would be well-placed in Freeport. Keith mentioned that the strategies in the plan came from conversations with Jim Damicis at Camoin Associates, who expressed willingness to play a role in seeing the Vision 2025 plan implemented, and with local food marketing specialist, Valerie Geredien. Ed encouraged Keith to connect with existing institutions including Wolfe's Neck Farms. Betsy mentioned that since Adam was on our board, Keith should use him as a resource, too. Adam agreed, and encouraged Keith to meet with others who are engaged in the industry, and to ask for help. Keith brought the board's attention to the proposed budget. David suggested that Keith be cautious in spending money, and that his initial work on this project should be to conduct interviews and research, and identify the best resources and potential players. Keith agreed, and asked if he had the board's approval to begin significant work on this project.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:45.