



MASG Steering Committee 2021.01.11

Agenda:

1. Affirm notes from November 2020 meeting for posting on MASG web page.
Affirmed.
2. Advocacy Priorities:
Where are the connections with smart growth for potential coordination or possible conflicts with other members?
 - Primarily State focus, but interested in local and federal as well.
 - See google sheet in folder for today's meeting
 - Local advocacy
 - Portland-based members are observing:
 - how will local initiatives impact Portland development and historic preservation.
 - Portland can be seen the canary in the coalmine for these issues
3. Programming updates: coordination, collaboration, minimize redundancy

Working Communities Challenge

- Efforts w/ KVCOG
- Engaging in several efforts with KVCOG, Southern Arrostook,
- Talking with AVCOG about proposals from Lewiston and Franklin County.
 - Linc noted
 - Lewiston Chamber is the lead of their design,
 - Misty Parker is City staff person on this.
 - Food security and equity are likely areas of focus.

Energy Efficiency Community Campaign

- continuing,
- hiring of an AmeriCorps member to lead the efforts,
- first in Biddeford and Windham.

Freeport will have a vote in March for a \$600K bond to fund bike/pad paths and approaches on both bridges over 295.

- Noted that this is divisive in town.
- MaineDOT requires a cost-share mechanism for these adaptations when they rebuild bridges.
- The town also retained a consultant to update the vision of Freeport evolving from retail to outdoor adventures.
 - includes rethinking the downtown,

- could lead to master planning.
- Referenced the development proposal from last fall that was shut down due to public outcry. (Never waste a good crisis)
- Same work at Genesis Loan Fund as when at CEI,
 - affordable housing and municipal investments.
 - Working with Lewiston on CHOICE neighborhoods investments.
 - Educating banks of fee-based loans instead of interest payments to address needs of Muslims who cannot pay interest due to religious beliefs.

Maine Preservation:

- Greg will be retiring in June, 2021.
- Supporting the tax credit bill will be a priority, along with several others mentioned today.

TNC:

- engaged in Millinocket within the Our Katahdin program.
- Sebago Clean Waters
 - led by local land trust
 - to develop a clean water fund to preserve forests in the Crooked River watershed
 - to ensure clean water for communities.
- Climate work is critical:
 - energy efficiency for municipalities with Efficiency Maine offering additional incentives for small municipalities (fewer than 4K residents)
 - LED lighting and heat pumps will be the focus in the coming year.

Portland Downtown:

- partnering with GPCOG with an AmeriCorps member on <https://www.mainewinterdine.com/>
- Late February will host an Open Streets forum to ensure best practices in the coming season.

Hallowell

- beginning to discuss post covid economic development strategies.
- This led to discussion of removing barriers to economic development as we work to rebuild post-COVID. What is the appropriate role of public safety in this work?

MDCenter:

- Jan 28th “coffee” 8:30-10:00 awards with national speaker. Please help promote the event. “The Power of Main Street Businesses and the Opportunities Ahead” <https://www.mdf.org/event/maine-downtown-center-annual-awards/>
- Continuing regular zooms among downtowns as they navigate COVID

Note: [Jared Woolston](#) shared information on Municipal Climate Resiliency work and readiness interviews [municipal climate resilience activities and readiness interviews](#)

NEXT MEETINGS:

Emily Dufour will be in touch in the next week or so to set dates for quarterly meetings to fill out 2021 as well as confirming meeting notes to post on MASG’s webpage.