**Minutes of the Economic Development Committee**

**Meeting February 3, 2016**

Attendees: Chuck Osgood, Pat Rice, Judy Horten, guest speaker Ben Birch, Town Tax Assessor

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm. A motion to approve the minutes of the January 6th meeting was made by Chuck and seconded by Judy, the minutes were approved unanimously.

* **Discussion with Ben Birch:** Mr. Birch presented several documents for us to consider with regard to commercial development in the Town. The first was a print out of the Business Directory that is now listed on our Town website. The 18 businesses include:

American Concrete

Casco Bay Energy LLC

Chameleon Music Service

Collabric

Eastern Maine School of Self-Defense

Golden Forestry Services

Hachey Fly Shop

Lou Silver, Inc.

Qualey Granite & Quartz

Raegamuffin’s

RM Flagg Co.

Stone Sparrow Café

Stucco Lodge

Tradewinds

Veazie Animal Wellness & Rehabilitation Center

Veazie Veterinary Clinic

Viking Glass

These don’t include a number of home based businesses. We don’t have a good number for these.

A second printout was of larger parcels of land that are currently held by Davis Family LLC and their location within the Town. These may come up for housing development over time.

A third printout was of several parcels of land located on School Street that are currently up for sale and may be used for commercial development. Discussion took place around all three printouts regarding possible use of the land. At the end, the general feeling was that our Town has limited available land for large scale commercial development.

* **Comprehensive Plan:** Pat gave and update on the progress of the comprehensive plan. Don MacKay contacted the person in Augusta responsible for Municipal Comprehensive Plans and the person gave him several data downloads and sites that compile statistics. Pasted below is the info:

**DATA LINKS**

Please follow the links listed below, for comprehensive planning data relevant to the following topic areas:

* **Population**
* **Housing**
* **Economy**
1. <http://econ.maine.gov/index/comprehensive>Various demographic, housing and economic data from the Census Bureau and other sources are available through this Office of Policy and Management webpage.
2. <http://www.maine.gov/economist/projections/index.shtml>Population projections for Maine cities and towns are available through this Office of Policy and Management webpage.
3. <http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/employers.html>The "Employer Locator" tool found on this Maine Department of Labor webpage allows the creation of a list of a town's employers and the number of workers employed by each one. There are 3 tabs on top of the window where the lists appear. To get a town‐specific list, press the “Employer Name” tab and then, on the right hand side of the following page, select the county and then the town from the "City" dropdown box.
4. <http://www.mainehousing.org/data/housing>‐facts This Maine State Housing Authority webpage provides home ownership and rental information by state, county and market area.
5. <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>The U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder site can provide additional detailed local housing and other information.

Questions about the Office of Policy and Management webpages and the data they contain should be directed to:

Amanda Rector State Economist

Governor's Office of Policy and Management

Amanda.Rector@Maine.gov

(207) 287‐2873

Questions about the Maine Department of Labor webpage and the data it contains should be

directed to:

Ruth Pease

Senior Economic Research Analyst Maine Department of Labor Amanda.Rector@Maine.gov (207) 621‐5189

Questions about the MaineHousing webpage and the data it contains should be directed to:

Bob King

Senior Research Analyst MaineHousing

bking@mainehousing.org

* **Networking Event:** We discussed some sort of Veazie business networking event or commercial fair. Late spring may be a good time for such a fair but first we wanted to know what a few businesses thought might be worthwhile for them. More discussion by the committee will be needed and this is carried forward to next meeting. Action item: Chuck and Judy will visit RM Flagg to get some ideas and input for this networking event before our next meeting.

**Next meeting:** - The next meeting date was set for March2nd at 6:30pm. A motion to adjourn was put forth by Chuck and seconded by Judy; the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm