

City of Gardiner Economic & Community Development Committee Meeting
September 11, 2025
5:30 pm, City Hall

Present: Melissa Lindley, Shawn Dolley, Chris Leake, Carrie Arsenault, Doug Baston, Jay Simanski, Tamara Whitmore, Pat Hart.

- 1.) from August 14, 2025 Meeting. Tamara will correct the spelling of Mr. Simanski's name. Doug makes the motion to accept the minutes with that one change; Carrie seconds the motion. The motion passes.
- 2.) Grant/Project Updates
 - a.) Dearborn Park
 - b.) Arcade Parking Lot
 - c.) EV Charging Project
 - d.) Maine Trails Grant proposal to clean up existing trails on the Soldier's Field property and extend to Quimby Field or Pierce Street.
 - e.) Project Canopy Grant - just opened and usually opens in February
 - i.) Proposal grant for Soldier's Field got turned down
 - f.) Maine Community Resilience Community Action Grant -Capital Investment Plan Grant - building off the Climate Vulnerability Assessment project, for a tool based on financials
 - i.) Would need to put the RFP to bid
 - g.) Economic Development portion of the Comp plan is going to have a community meeting on December 2, 2025
- 3.) Downtown/Main Street Updates
- 4.) Business Support & Development
 - a.) Task Force
 - i.) Phyllis and Mike Miclon are going to start talking with local restaurants to gather information on how to support restaurants and improve communication
 - ii.) Work on how to attract more restaurants
 - iii.) Point is to be proactive as possible
 - b.) Potential partnership with consultants to help us figure out a strategy for downtown select sites
 - i.) [Place + Main Advisors](#) - Joe Borgstrom & Kristin Borgstrom - Specializes in downtown and traditional commercial district revitalization using Placemaking techniques and Main Street strategies:
 - (1) Economic Development Strategy & Implementation
 - (2) Downtown Revitalization Strategy & Implementation
 - (3) Real Estate Redevelopment Planning & Marketing
 - (4) Communications Strategies & Media Training
 - ii.) [Community Design Solutions](#) - Randy Wilson - Community Design and Planning Services

c.) Demographics - Data for Work from Home and New Post-Pandemic Residents

- i.) What information do we want and how do we get it
- ii.) Information that would be helpful to know what Gardiner needs
- iii.) Why do people move to Gardiner?
 - (1) Location, location, location:
 - (a) Intersection of I 95 & 295
 - (b) Under an hour to Portland and the Airport
 - (c) 1.5 hours to skiing, most of midcoast, lakes, etc
 - (2) Boys & Girls Club
 - (3) Professional Fire & Rescue

5.) Adjourn

Next meeting: October 9, 2025