

**Minutes**  
**SKOWHEGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**MEETING**  
**March 9, 2016**  
**7:00 AM**  
**Renaissance Center – Conference Room**

**Members Present:**

John Jordan, Chairman  
Kurt Maynard, Vice Chairman  
Jason Gayne, Treasurer  
Betty Austin  
Sally Dwyer  
Billy Finley  
Reid Gibson  
Doreen Poulin

**Members Absent:**

Todd Smith

**Others Present:**

Kristina Cannon, Main Street Skowhegan Director  
Matthew Dubois, Main Street Member & Owner, Skowhegan Fleuriste & The Bankery  
Jeff Hewett, Director of Economic & Community Dev.

**1. Strategic Planning focus group with Main Street Skowhegan Director, Members and SEDC Board Members.**

This was a collaborative meeting with members of Main Street Skowhegan and SEDC on ideas to help with forming Main Street's Strategic Plan. Below are the ideas generated from the questions during the meeting:

What do you see as Skowhegan's key assets/strengths? What does Skowhegan have going for it? (This could be a quality of place or people, could be a geographic location or area, physical attributes or other assets).

- SAPPI
- River
- Youth - Business Families - Young Business Owners
- 3 Ring Binder
- Gateway -> North (Crossroads)
- County Seat
- Lifestyle - No Resources
- Sugarloaf/Eaton Mountain/Rafting
- Social Services
- Loan Funds: Town/County/KVCOG

- Historical
- Art School
- Somerset Explorer

What do you believe are the opportunities within Skowhegan that with enhanced support or focus could be a game changer for the community?

- Run of River - MCSL / University Remote-Phys / Recreational Facility pool, hockey, etc Arena
- YMCA
- Hotel/BB with event convention
- Broadband
- Second bridge - traffic flow (safety - skyway)
- Develop wood supply
- Outdoor rec trails ... ATV's
- Major employer
- Walk bridges to boat landing
- Historical
- Art
- Transportation to MTNS/South etc...

What do you think drives, or could drive, economic development in Skowhegan?

- Location: live, work & play
- Workforce development
- Cost of living: Reduce \$ services; increase \$ for work done;
- Housing / Goods
- +/- Old buildings - +\$ Reno/Running; -\$ Rent
- Retain local youth
- Higher paying jobs

What role do you think our heritage, arts and culture currently contributes to Skowhegan?

- Coordinate arts/culture/heritage - gather; collaborate/educate, communicate w/locals;
- Fairgrounds
- Grandstand @ Fair concerts, etc...
- Programming for shows
- Opera House
- Lakewood

When you think of Skowhegan 10 years from now, what do you envision?

- Wishes fulfilled of #2

- Gorge events
- Run of River
- Broadband for all of Skowhegan
- Red Zone
- Hotel
- Traffic pattern/parking
- Public transportation system
- \$ independence from mill
- Mill - long term
- Retain youth
- Collaboration / Merging services & organizations / Non Profit

Is there anything else you would want Maine Street Skowhegan to be thinking of or addressing in the strategic plan?

- Youth - education & opportunity
- Connecting with region
- Marketing
- Cross promotion

## **8. Economic & Community Development Office Items.**

Jeff Hewett let the Board know that there will be a Broadband meeting March 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Canaan Town office. He is working with Heather Johnson on an application for a Planning Grant due in April; if anyone knows of a business that is having trouble with broadband please contact Jeff the more information we can provide will help in the application process.

Jeff Hewett also let the Board know that Karen Lewia; owner of The Children's Cottage, contacted our office about a tenant who is looking to lease an office space in the front of her building. She asked if the Board would allow her tenant access to the elevator in the Renaissance Center. The questions have come up do we provide an access key for use the elevator to Karen's tenant? And do we allow it only during the time that this building is open or can we allow it for after hours?

Kristina Cannon told the Board that the tenant is Tina Roy she is a drug and alcohol counselor.

The Board asked to get the information of what her hours will be for counseling services. The Board was all set with allowing Karen's tenant access during the week and the hours that our building is open.