

# Route 113 Corridor Committee

Corridor Committee Meeting

January 21, 2009

2.30 – 5:00 PM

Brownfield Town Hall

## Meeting Notes

**Attendance:** Bob Jewett (Standish); Martin Krauter (Fryeburg); Marlene Livonia (Hiram); Wayne Newbegin (Standish); John Philips (Hiram); Edward Pierce (Hiram); Glen Reynolds (Baldwin); Larry Seidl (Baldwin); Mike Shaw (Standish); Lou Stack (Standish); Marlee Turner (Brownfield); Steve Wood (Baldwin).

**Staff:** Julia Dawson (SMRPC); Brian Doyle, State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development; Fred Michaud, MaineDOT; Caroline Paras (GPCOG)

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Caroline called the meeting to order.

#### A. Meeting Minutes

There were no changes offered for the minutes of 11/23/08.

### Report on the tour of Grandy Oats

Grandy Oats produces 100% organic granola, trail mix and other bulk snacks. Originally started, 30 years ago by two women in Farmington, the business has grown to what is now Brownfield's largest employer with 10 full-time employees, with benefits. The business relocated to Brownfield in 2002 from Bridgton, when Nat Pierce purchased and renovated a historic barn on Center Conway Road. The barn houses the production facility on the ground floor, and offices upstairs. About 85% of their product is sold through wholesale accounts, e.g., bulk bins in colleges and supermarkets. Their business philosophy is to keep the integrity of the "Made in Maine" product, while exploring opportunities to expand the business with other like minded entities. All their products are made with certified organically grown ingredients. Many of their ingredients are not grown in Maine, but they do make every effort to use them. They currently ship in bags of oats via rail and may be interested in using the Mountain Division in the future. Within their current space, they still have the capacity to double their production.

### Report on the Legislative Meet and Greet Supper

The Route 113 Corridor Committee hosted a legislative potluck supper at the Brown Memorial Library in East Baldwin on December 10, 2008. The event was a great success and well attended by both state and local elected officials from the towns along the corridor. Caroline gave a PowerPoint presentation on the region's economic development strategy, while Dave Knapp facilitated the Q&A that followed. The delegation was impressed with the work of the Committee to date as well as the cooperation amongst the municipalities. Senator Bill Diamond

charged the legislators to speak with a common voice for the region. He encouraged the Committee to keep making “noise” in Augusta.

## II. News

### A. Town News

Standish: The new roof will be installed on the Town Hall addition in the next couple of weeks. The 5,000 square foot addition will nearly double the existing space and will include a 1,200 square foot meeting hall.

Hiram: Nothing to report

Baldwin: The Town is still pursuing Pine Tree Zone status.

Brownfield: The town garage is coming along and the community center is seeing increased use. JT Lockman from SMRPC recently gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on the Town’s existing Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Policy.

Fryeburg: The town is exploring designs for a new police station and a new Town Office. The Board of Selectmen has established a committee to evaluate the Town’s industrial zone, and there has been some talk of inviting Brownfield to join the discussion.

### B. Round Table Discussion on Business Development

Brian Doyle, Business Development Specialist from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), gave a presentation on how he can support business development in the region. He explained that he acts as “the eyes and ears” for the governor. Any leads on businesses in trouble or interested in expanding should be funneled to Brian. Discretion and confidentiality are of the utmost importance when dealing with businesses. Leaks about possible moves can be detrimental.

Brian reminded everyone how important it is to raise your profile, sell yourself, think long term and have a true vision. Key areas of support he can offer: creating a business plan, identifying and bringing together stakeholders; and evaluating the region’s workforce. Access to skilled workers is the number one challenge for businesses.

Brian ticked through a number of important DECD programs:

**Pine Tree Development Zone Program (PTDZ):** Provides qualified businesses that meet PTDZ requirements with tax incentives, such as employment tax increment financing, sales tax exemptions, access to reduced electric rates and refunds of corporate income tax and insurance premiums.

**Employment Tax Increment Financing (ETIF):** Provides qualified businesses that add a minimum of five qualified jobs within a two-year period with reimbursement of up to 80% of the Maine income tax withholdings.

**Governor's Training Initiative (GTI):** Provides financial training assistance for job creation, retention and competitive retooling by linking Maine's education and training providers to the needs of Maine employers.

Finally, Brian distributed the *Pocket Guide to Maine's Business Resources* which list the details of all the programs. For more information go to [www.businessinmaine.com](http://www.businessinmaine.com)

### **III. Scenic Byway**

Fred Michaud from the MaineDOT introduced himself to the group and explained that he will be the new byway coordinator for the State. He went on to explain that the state is looking at partnering with the America's Byways Resource Center to offer training workshops for the three newly designated scenic byways on creating effective Corridor Management Plans. He talked about identifying stories and folk tales of the byway and how important it is to tell that story to the public.

### **IV. Action Items**

- Invite Nate Moulton, Patricia Quinn or the Conway Scenic Railroad to the next meeting.
- Focus on development of a Business Plan for the Mountain Division.