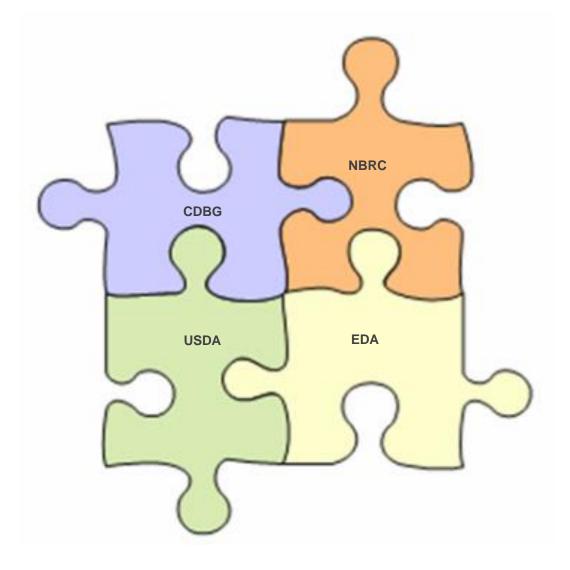
## Annual Report FY Year Ending October 31, 2021



**Connecting Resources Post-Pandemic** 



Maine Community Development Association

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"Our volunteers are talented and dedicated and strive to provide the membership with as much service as possible".

## **Message from the President**

#### **Message from the President**

What a crazy, crazy two years it has been in all aspects of our lives!! Who would have thought over a year ago, that we would have to decide to hold our first virtual meeting and/or conference? Although we are not out of the woods yet with the pandemic, we are in hopes for a light at the end of the tunnel, and we will all make it through!

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your President over the past two years. While the association was finally able to hold one in-person session this year, and although I felt I was unable to experience the full scope of the president's position, it was still a rewarding and learning experience for me. Serving on the board of this organization is a fantastic way to immerse yourself in MCDA and truly understand all the hard work and dedication that goes on behind the scenes in not only the association but also what we all do every day as professionals.

I ask you to continue to find the strength in the vulnerability that comes from the unknown. Look beyond of what was the norm to what is the reality we all face today. Continue to reach out to the association for guidance and resources and as always our members will continue to be your guiding light!

I am handing the torch over to your new President Scott LaFlamme, who I am confident will serve this organization well in the next two years.

Thank you and continue to be kind!

Tracey Desjardins 2019 - 2021

## **Financial Statements**

# Statement of Revenues and Expenses (As of July, 2021)

		Budget	Ac	tual	Prior Year	Actual
			Month	Y-T-D	Month	Y-T-D
	REVENUES					
40101	Interest Income	\$21.00	1.33	\$9.06	\$1.60	\$10.89
40201	Member Dues	\$4,300.00	\$0.00	\$2,800	\$0.00	\$3,500
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,321.00	\$1.33	\$2,809.06	\$1.60	\$3,510.89
	EXPENDITURES					
50201	Postage	\$100.00	\$11.43	\$19.93	\$0.00	\$40.15
50202	Printing	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$.00	\$0.00
50203	Photocopies	\$100.00	\$0.03	\$3.32	\$0.00	\$9.96
50204	Supplies	\$6.00	\$0.46	\$0.76	\$0.00	\$1.03
50291	General Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$533.94
50202	Seminars	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
50411	Contract Services – MMA	\$2,400.00	\$203.00	\$1,422.00	\$199.00	\$1,392.00
50502	COSCDA Convention	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
50505	Newsletter/Admin	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
50506	Web Page Update	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$6,821.00	\$214.92	\$1,446.01	\$199.00	\$2,477.08
	NET INCOME(LOSS)	(\$2,500.00)	(\$213.59)	(\$1,363.05)	(\$197.40)	(\$1,533.81)

### **Balance Sheet**

ASSETS	
Current Assets	\$15,009.74
Checking	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$15,009.74
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balances	
Fund Balance	\$13,646.69
Net Income	\$1,363.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$15,009.74

#### "Made in the USA" or "Made in America"





U.S. Senator Angus King, co-sponsored a bill that would establish a new federal standards for labeling products as Made in the USA or Made in America. Currently, businesses are faced with a variety of state laws and red tape inhibiting the sale of goods and leading to higher costs. This bill will create one national standard by ensuring the federal government maintains authority in setting country-of-origin labeling standards. According to the Manufacturers Association of Maine, this new law will keep manufacturing in the U.S. and Maine as well as create good-paying jobs. The bill also advances a chief goal of the Governor's Economic Plan.

## **Employment Situation in Maine – August, 2021**

Over the last year the number of payroll jobs increased 31,500. The largest gains were in leisure, hospitality, manufacturing, retail trade, and professional and business services. As of August 2021, the unemployment rate was 4.9%, but if the labor force participation was as high in August as 17 months earlier, the rate would be 8.4%. The percent labor force participation is 60.3% currently. Jobless people are those who were not available for work or who did not seek work – they are not in the labor force.

The Maine Tourism Association reports that the tourism industry is strong, but staff shortages are forcing businesses to cut back hours. The problems plaguing the hospitality industry are especially acute in Maine because of workforce issues such as an aging population. A professor at the University of Maine provides an analyses of Maine's labor force as 1) aging population, 2) college graduates eager to leave the state, and 3) mismatch in skills as contributors to the labor shortage. Other economists cite that some may be afraid to go back to work due to COVID-19 while others may be reassessing their career. The lack of childcare services also contributes to staff returning to work.



"The workforce shortage has had an impact on how long and when restaurants can remain open. Some restaurants are focusing on days that tend to have the highest traffic."

Cary Tyson, Executive Director, Portland Downtown

Cary Tyson, Executive Director of Portland Downtown has partnered with other organizations and launched www.mainejobs.theboomerinstitute.com to match Mainers 50+ years old with businesses looking to meet the demands of the 2021 summer season. Governor Janet Mills also announced the "Back to Work" Program to help unemployed residents to rejoin the workforce by providing an offer of up to \$1,500 to new employees who join the workforce by July 15. Cary is also a member of the Maine Community Development Association.

## Advocacy

It is extremely important that MCDA weigh-in on proposed legislation and policies that impact community development in Maine. As the organization for community development professionals in the state, MCDA positions itself to be viewed by both state and federal officials as the "voice" of community development policy making in Maine. The ability to achieve such recognition is enhanced by having among MCDA members, representatives of the Department of Economic and Community Development and by its association with Federal community development agencies, such as USDA's Rural Development Services, Northern Border Regional Commission, and Economic Development Administration.

Each year, MCDA participates in the rule-making process conducted by the Office of Community Development (OCD) to provide input on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Program changes crafted by OCD concerning the distribution of the CDBG funds are presented through a series of public hearings where public comments are solicited. For 2022, OCD anticipates the receipt of approximately \$12 million. Public hearings will be scheduled for later in the year; however, OCD Director proposes to offer changes in the program, i.e. increased budgets for the Special Projects and Housing Assistance programs (Housing Assistance funds will be matched with ARPA funds and distributed to communities for activities that target affordability and safety); the Microenterprise grant program will continue to be administered through the Small Business Development Centers and other potential proposed changes following public hearing comments.

MCDA's Advocacy Committee is tasked with developing strategies to enhance the organization's visibility. Of interest are the following legislative bills.

- LD 1694 An Act to Create the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority sponsored by Rep. Melanie Sachs of Freeport. This bill establishes a fund to support the redevelopment of blighted, abandoned and/or environmentally hazardous property.
- LD 1337 An Act to Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Property Taxes through an Impact Fee on Vacant Residences sponsored by Rep. Christopher Kessler of South Portland. The bill creates a residential vacancy impact fee for certain vacant residential property. The revenue from the impact fee to be distributed to Housing Opportunities for Maine fund to be used to fund affordable housing activities.
- LD 857 PL 2021, c.319 An Act to Create a Municipal Grant Program to Promote Sustainable Economic Development sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham. This Act establishes the Municipal Grant Program to provide competitive grant funding for projects that further the goals of sustainable economic development as outlined by the Maine Economic Growth Council in the Council's annual "Measures of Growth" report and by the economic development strategy for the state as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.
- LD 1530 PL 2021, c. 219 An Act to Allow People to Live in Tiny Homes as a Primary or Accessory Dwelling sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield. This Act requires municipalities to allow a tiny home to be placed on an individual house lot where single family dwellings are allowed or as a accessory structure, provided the home is in compliance with all applicable land use requirements.

#### NOVEMBER REFERENDUM ELECTION BALLOT

- <u>Question 1:</u> Citizen Initiative: Do you want to ban the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region and to require the Legislature to approve all other such projects anywhere in Maine, both retroactively to 2020, and to require the Legislature, retroactively to 2014, to approve by a two-thirds vote such projects using public land?
- <u>Question 2:</u> Bond Issue: Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue to build or improve roads, bridges, railroads, airports, transit facilities and ports and make other transportation investments, to be used to leverage an estimated \$253,000,000 in federal and other funds.
- <u>Question 3:</u> Constitutional Amendment: Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being?

#### Communication

MCDA offers quarterly newsletters to provide its membership with news, promotions, upcoming events, job opportunities and funding opportunities. It provides the reader with an opportunity to share common community and economic development issues and concerns as well as successful stories. The following are a few examples of topics included in the newsletters:

#### News From Around the State

- SCORE Maine names 2021 Business Award Winners: Houlton-based maker of tiny homes and a veteran-owned craft brewery in Freeport are among this year's SCORE Maine Business Award winners.
- National survey of 3,600 small business owners in the cleaning, catering, entertainment, and landscape business ranks Maine 1<sup>st</sup> for Small Business Friendliness. Maine ranked A+ for overall support and training programs; Afor starting a business, A- for ease of licensing, B- for state, labor and tax regulations and F for ease of hiring employees!
- For the second year, Fort Fairfield Councilors have approved a decrease in the town's mill rate. In 2020, the mill rate went from 25.0 to 20.5 and in 2021 the mill rate was further reduced to 19.5. The decrease is attributed to the recent community-wide tax revaluation.



#### Jobs & Classifieds

- Senior/Community Planners: City of Portland, Town of Berwick, Town of Scarborough, Town of Waterboro, City of Sanford, Town of Fairfield, City of Waterville
- Town Managers: Towns of Patten, North Yarmouth, Sangerville, Bar Harbor, Monmouth, Ogunquit, and Buckfield
- Economic Development Specialist: Cumberland County, Town of Kennebunk, City of Waterville
- **Other:** RFP for Comprehensive Plan in Bar Harbor, Grants Accountant for City of Lewiston, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for York County, ARPA Program Coordinator for City of Portland
- For more information on Jobs & Classified visit <u>www.memun.org</u>.

#### Upcoming Events:

• Maine Downtown Center will be offering one webinar each month this fall. These are 45 minute webinars offered before the workday or at lunch time.

October 20, 2021	12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Project Canopy: Greening Your Downtown
November 17, 2021	8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Youth Engagement: What are the Possibilities
December 15, 2021	12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Municipal Partners: How to Work with Staff and Elected Officials

- Maine Craft Weekend October 2 and 3, 2021. For more information, https://mainecraftweekend.org
- MMA Convention September 30 and October 1, 2021 at the Augusta Civic Center
- Next MCDA Meeting December 9, 2021

#### **Funding Opportunities**

- USDA Rural Development Programs
  - REAP Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants: This program assists rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing renewable energy development assistance.
  - Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program. The program provides loan guarantees to eligible lenders to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a public improvement, operated on a non-profit basis, needed for the orderly development of a rural community where the rural community is a city or town, or its equivalent county or multi-county area.
  - Other programs include the Energy Resource Conservation Program, Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants; Water and Wastewater Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants and other grant programs, which can be accessed via <u>www.rd.usda/gov/programs-services/all</u> programs.
- Environmental Protection Agency
  - Brownfields Job Training Grants Program due October 5, 2021: This program makes available funds to deliver Brownfields Job Training programs that recruits, trains, and places local, unemployed and underemployed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. <u>www.grants.gov</u>.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2022 Program
  - Letters of Intent begin January-March 2022 with Applications due March through May for community and economic development programs
- Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)
  - State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program LOIs to begin in February and applications due on or about May 2022
  - Regional Forest Economy Partnership Program accepted Letters of Intent by September 10 and applications will be due on November 12

#### ARPA

Maine has received \$73 million for childcare providers. All licensed childcare providers and Child Care Subsidy Program license-exempt, non-relative providers are eligible to apply. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 30. For more information or questions, email the Department of Health and Human Services at <u>ARPSChildcareGrants.DHHS@maine.gov</u>.



- Eastern Maine Development Corporation
- Town of Vinalhaven
- Town of Guilford
- Town of Pittsfield
- National Digital Equity Center
- Town of Hermon
- Greater Augusta Utility District
- Town of Frenchville •
- Loring Development Authority of Maine
- Town of Millinocket
- Town of Danforth
- Western Foothills Land Trust
- 31 Applications Submitted: 12 Awarded

Grant Amount: \$350,000 Grant Amount: \$1,000,000 Grant Amount: \$280,000 Grant Amount: \$245,000 Grant Amount: \$150.000 Grant Amount: \$50,000 Grant Amount: \$1,000,000 Grant Amount: \$758,000 Grant Amount: \$500,000 Grant Amount: \$203.439 Grant Amount: \$229,200 Grant Amount: \$89,842 Grants Funds Requested: \$14,235,543.80

Total Project Amount: \$455,000 Total Project Amount: \$5,216,160 Total Project Amount: \$350,000 Total Project Amount: \$772,426 Total Project Amount: \$1,344,275 Total Project Amount: \$1,200,000 Total Project Amount: \$4,867,225 Total Project Amount: \$1,203,000 Total Project Amount: \$2,990,000 Total Project Amount: \$254,299 Total Project Amount: \$286,500 Total Project Amount: \$275,000 **Grant Funds Awarded** \$4,855,481.00

#### **USDA** Rural Development Program

The USDA Rural Development Program provided grants in the amount of \$593,000 to seven organizations to promote economic development activities. Among the organizations granted RD funds were Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Sunrise County Economic Council, Arnold Trail Snowmobile Network, Black Mountain of Maine, City of

Caribou, Four Directions Development Corporation, and Catholic Charities Maine. Congratulations!

The Environmental Protection Agency selected three projects in Maine to receive \$1.3 million in Brownfields Projects. The three awardees include -

- Our Katahdin \$500,000 Cleanup Grant to clean up the 7,500 square foot Research Building on the former Great Northern Paper Company and also to support community outreach activities:
- Penobscot Indian Nation \$300,000 Assessment Grant to conduct Phase 1 and 2 environmental site • assessments, develop cleanup and re-use plans and support community outreach activities; and
- Washington County Development Authority \$500,000 Cleanup Grant to clean up the former Navy • Recreational Building, a 19,285 square foot one-story building built in 1964 and shuttered in 2002.

## Membership

MCDA membership consists of 28 communities, 7 organizations/CAP agencies/regional planning and council of governments/state agency; 1 consultants and 1 engineering firm.

	Organizations Engineering/Consultant
Ashland Bangor Bath Biddeford Bowdoinham Bradford Brunswick Caswell Chelsea Ellsworth Fort Fairfield Fort Kent Gardiner	Office of Community DevelopmentRansom Consulting, Inc.Kennebec Valley Council of GovernmentsMark GreenLincolnCountyRegionalPlanningCommissionMaine Development FoundationNorthern Maine Development CommissionPiscataquis County Economic DevelopmentCouncilSunrise County Economic Council
Guilford Houlton Islesboro Lisbon Madawaska Old Town Presque Isle Richmond Rockland St. Agatha Searsport Skowhegan Thomaston Topsham Yarmouth	Becoming an MCDA member offers numerous benefits, such as training and workshops, legislative advocacy, affiliation with other agencies and organizations, links to funding opportunities, and ability to network with multiple partners. The Quarterly Newsletter provides informational materials on funding opportunities, job openings, community and economic development articles, and upcoming events. MCDA urges each municipality to become a member of the organization. MCDA is an affiliate group of the Maine Municipal Association and as such enjoys the same status regarding lobbying. MCDA's Advocacy Role is to weigh in on proposed legislation and policies that impact community development in Maine. MCDA also works closely with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). DECD's Office of Community Development works collaboratively with MCDA to review proposed changes and garner support for the CDBG Program.

#### Why Join MCDA.....

- Ability to Work Together
- Internal Network
- Creates a Larger Voice
- Tenure and Experience of Members
- Connection to Funding Sources
- Multiple Resource Base
- Increased Opportunities for Professional Development

## **Professional Development**

On August 6, 2021, MCDA held its General Membership meeting at the Gardiner Elks Club in Gardiner. Twenty-one MCDA members attended the meeting with a focus on "*Celebrating Resilience and Determination of CDBG and Northern Border Projects*". Jennifer Peters of Sunrise County Economic Council presented a display of the Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship, a program of that provides business training and workforce development for Washington County businesses. The training program partners with colleges to offer credits to students. The program is free and can be accessed through the Center at <a href="https://machiasvalleycenter.org">https://machiasvalleycenter.org</a>. Joella Theriault of Northern Maine Development Commission presented a display of the Town of Madawaska's on-going Downtown Revitalization Program. Using NBRC and CDBG funds as well as the town's bond money, the town has completed demolition of substandard and deteriorated buildings on Main Street and constructed an amphitheater, pocket parks and Main Street lighting. The town is currently implementing a Façade Improvement Project that will improve the appearance of six Main Street properties. At this year's 2021 MMA Convention, MCDA will present a session entitled *"Connecting Resources Post-Pandemic"*. Panelist will include –



EJ Roach Director of Economic and Community Development City of Old Town



Jennifer Peters Assistant Director Sunrise County Economic Council



Matthew Eddy Planning and Development Director City of Biddeford



Joella Theriault Community Development Specialist Northern Maine Development Commission MCDA's Professional Development Committee is chaired by the Vice President of the Association whose duties include inviting speakers at general membership meetings to discuss topics of interest, provide forums to increase awareness and foster communication relating to community development issues and concerns, and to provide education and training through workshops.

Throughout the year, the Director of the Office of Community Development has attended general membership meetings to provide information on various programs, such as the CDBG 2022 Program, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC).

Anyone having a topic of interest for future forums or workshops are encouraged to contact Scott Laflamme at 846-2401 Ext. 227

#### MCDA Past Presidents

Tracey Desjardins	2019-2021
Stephen Dyer	2017-2019
Gail Chase	2015-2017
Darryl Sterling	2013-2015
Rodney Lynch	2011-2013
James Gulnac	2009-2011
Tony Levesque	2008-2009
Chris Spruce	2007
Isaac Wagner	2006
Matthew Eddy	2004-2005
Peter Lyford	2002-2003
,	

Scott Pierz 1996-1997 Perley Beane 1994-1995 Orman Whitcomb 1992-1993 Debbie Wyman Nancy Gervais Dan Feeney Arthur Faucher Terry McCabe 1986 Charles Upton 1985 **Rick Michaud** Laurie Windsor

#### **Economic and Community Development Resources**

#### **Federal**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development www.hud.gov

USDA Rural Development www.rurdev.usda.gov

U.S. Small Business Administration www.sbaonline.sba.gov

Northern Border Regional Commission www.nbrc.gov

#### **Regional**

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments www.avcog.org

Central Maine Growth Council www.centralmaine.org

Eastern Maine Development Corporation www.emdc.org

Hancock County Planning Commission www.hcpcme.org

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments www.kvcog.org

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission www.lincolncountymaine.me

Other ALPHA ONE www.alphaone.now.com

Coastal Enterprises, Inc. www.ceimaine.org

Maine Downtown Center www.mdf.org/mdc

Maine State Housing Authority www.mainehousing.org

<u>State</u>

Maine Department of Economic and Community Development www.meocd.org

USDA Rural Development in Maine <u>www.rurdev.usda.gov/me</u>

Small Business Development Centers <a href="http://www.mainesbdc.org">www.mainesbdc.org</a>

Midcoast Economic Development District www.mceddme.org

Northern Maine Development Commission www.nmdc.org

Penquis Community Action Program www.penquis.org

Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission www.smrpc.org

Sunrise County Economic Council www.sunrisecounty.org

Washington County Council of Governments <a href="http://www.wccog.net">www.wccog.net</a>

Finance Authority of Maine www.famemaine.com

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## 2022 MCDA MEETING CALENDAR

January 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

May 2022							
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September 2022						
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February 2022							
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27	28						

	June 2022						
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October 2022							
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November 2022

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19 26

	March 2022						
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July 2022						
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April 2022						
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	August 2022						
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December 2022						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31



General Membership Meetings





#### Membership Annual Meeting Thursday, September 30, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85874651954?pwd=aEd5Z0V1SHNOMIF1My9OaWd2S0RNQT09

Meeting ID: 858 7465 1954 Passcode: 074034

#### AGENDA

- 12:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions by Tracey Desjardins, President MCDA 2019- 2021 Lunch (Soup and Wraps w/ Salad and Dessert
- 1:00 2:30 p.m. Annual Meeting 1. Approval of August 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes
  - 2. Treasurer's Report and Financials
  - 3. Adoption of 2022 Budget
  - 4. Election of Officers 2022 Nominations Committee
  - 5. Secretary and Newsletter Report Joella R. Theriault
  - 6. Membership Report Tony Levesque Updated membership list (Attached)
  - 7. Office of Community Development Report Deborah Johnson, Director
  - 8. Passing of Leadership Welcome your next President
  - 9. Next Meeting Date: December 9, 2021
  - 10. Adjourn

3:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker – Where Do We Go from Here? Canada & the U.S.

2020-2021 Board of Dire	Term Expiration	
<b>Tracey Desjardins</b> President	City of Gardiner 6 Church Street Gardiner, ME 04345 (207) 582-4200	October, 2021
Scott Laflamme Vice President	Town of Yarmouth 200 Main Street Yarmouth, ME 04096 (207) 846-2401 Ext. 227	October, 2021
<b>Mathew Eddy</b> Treasurer	City of Biddeford 205 Main Street, P.O. Box 586 Biddeford, ME 04005 (207) 282-7119	October, 2021
Joella R. Theriault Secretary	Northern Maine Development Commission P.O. Box 779 Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 551-5812	October, 2021
Stephen Dyer Immediate Past President	Ransom Environmental Consulting 400 Commercial Street, Suite 400 Portland, ME 04101 (207) 772-2891	October, 2021
Other Board Members	Term E	xpiration
<b>Jen Peters</b> Member-At-Large	Sunrise County Economic Council 7 Ames Way Machias, ME 04654 (207) 255-0983	October, 2022
Nancy Ketch Member-At-Large	Town of Houlton 21 Water Street Houlton, ME 04730 (207) 532-7111	October, 2022
<b>Cary Tyson</b> Member-At-Large	Portland Downtown P.O. Box 8593 Portland, ME 04101 (207) 772-6828	October, 2021
Darryl Sterling Member-At-Large	Economic and Community Empowerment Consultant 11 Corliss Street Bath, ME 04530 (207) 807-9062	October, 2021

## Maine Community Development Association

Local Government Center 60 Community Drive Augusta, ME 04330-9486

Tel 623-8428 or 1-800-452-8786

www.mainecda.org

