



Town of Lisbon

Ross H. Cunningham, Director
Office of Economic and Community Development

Town Council

Fern Larochelle, Chair
Harry Moore Jr., Vice Chair
Don Fellows
Mark Lunt
Christine Cain
Raymond Robishaw
Jason Smith

To: Ryan McGee, Interim Town Manager

From: Ross Cunningham, Director, ECD

Date: 6/15/22

Reference: Monthly Update

The Economic & Community Development office has been getting up to speed on old projects, rolling out new projects and marketing Lisbon both in and out of town.

As you know, I brought before council 3 items at the last meeting that will better our community. 3 CDBG projects that have received state approval, a revision to our RLF program for the FAME based funds and the Harold Alfond Grant opportunity for workforce training.

Additionally, I have been learning about the Brownfields program, connecting to regional developers and learning from fellow ECD professionals through 3 different conferences I attended in May and June.

I have been working with the LDC on projects that they had underway, specifically the roadside banner program and we are moving that project forward. We have reviewed and are revising the MOU with the Masonic Lodge in an effort to get the Moxie Hub project back on track and I look forward to the council discussion on the Worumbo waterfront so I can move forward at the council's direction.

As I had indicated I would last month, I have launched our web page listing all available property for sale or lease in Lisbon. It has been very well received and I hope it spurs some interest. I also launched the "Jobs in Lisbon" page that has listings for local job opportunities promoting the ability to work where you live. I also had two large signs installed letting folks know that our Main St stores are open and parking is available.

Over my first 6 weeks, I have had meaningful conversations with over 65 businesses and ensured that I have a POC and email for them. I have launched a "This Weekend in Lisbon" weekly post promoting local sales and other events. This is published every Friday on our Facebook page.

Finally, I have been thrilled to be a part of 1 business relocation and 3 new business openings. Lil Jam Cookies at Midtown Plaza, Little River Coffee on Union St, Elite Nutrition on Main St and River Driver Cannabis also on Main St. Last but not least I have been working closely with the Maine Blues Festival and look forward to an amazing weekend.



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Looking ahead, I am starting a local business profile video series in collaboration with Positive Change Lisbon. We hope to highlight 1-2 local businesses a week. I am working with the Library Director to have a large artwork display installed on the rear of the building. Additionally, I am working on some more business growth and promotion of our great community.

Respectfully,

Ross H. Cunningham