



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: 7/6/22

Reference: Monthly Update

The last month has been very exciting for the Economic and Community Development office. I was thrilled to assist the Maine Blues Festival in hosting their first festival here in Lisbon. The event was extremely successful and the businesses in the area had a fantastic day of sales. I will be presenting a full summary to the council on July 12.

I also had the privilege of taking Carlene Tremblay of Senator Susan Collins' office around town on a tour. We toured Kelly Park and discussed the many improvements that are happening in the Lisbon Village area. We also met with the owners of Blue Ox Malt House, Little River Coffee, Eastcraft, Olive Pit and Juliet's Resale. She was very pleased to see the great energy we have and the exciting things happening here in Lisbon.

In the last month, Lisbon has had several new businesses open and we have celebrated those. New business ribbon cuttings have included River Driver Cannabis and Lil jam Cookies.



I am scheduling ceremonies for Elite Nutrition and Little River coffee shop in the coming month. I am working with 4 additional businesses that have plans to operate in Lisbon and are in various stages of development. Additionally, I am reaching out daily to connect with more of the Lisbon Business community and grow my network database and social media reach. The Friday announcements are getting a lot of attention. I am also establishing connections with regional developers and development organizations.



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The CDBG Projects continue to move forward with 231 Lisbon St (All Clean Carpet) currently out to bid. This will be closed and sent to council for approval at the next meeting on July 12. We are creating the “Scope of Work” to put the bid package together for 671 Lisbon St (Bowling Alley)

I continue to field concerns from the Main St businesses regarding the construction and relay those concerns to the supervisor for the project. The supervisor has been very receptive and accommodating.

As approved by council, we have closed on a RLF loan for a local business looking to purchase more equipment. I continue to look for opportunities to support our business community with these loans.

The LDC has finalized the plans for the banner project and we have reached out to 3 companies to get quotes on our project. We intend to place over 30 banners in the two primary sections of town. Our goal is to have these up in the next month.

The Masonic Lodge has sent the Moxie Hub plans to the State Fire Marshal and we are awaiting a response.

I am looking at reviving the “Business Breakfast Forums” that were held regularly several years ago. I hope to have our first one in late August.

Finally, I am looking forward to a very successful Moxie weekend and stand ready to assist the Parks and Rec team as needed.

Respectfully,

Ross H. Cunningham