



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: 9/13/22

The last month has extremely productive from an ECD perspective. As I continue to make connections and gain experience in the role, I find more projects that will benefit our town greatly. As in previous reports, I endeavor daily to reach more Lisbon business leaders and share with them my office's ability to help them grow and thrive. This outreach includes local nonprofits such as church groups and other community groups as well as home based businesses. My "Business Mailing list" currently has 130 contacts.

The Worumbo steering committee has met regularly and we are making great strides. We are set to submit the resilience grant next week and are prepared to move this project forward. An RFQ has been released seeking a nonprofit to partner with us on the future of the site. I have received numerous inquiries regarding the site from regional promoters and event coordinators and will work to find a way to bring these events to Lisbon.

In the last month, multiple events have happened in our town and I have worked to help organize, run and/or promote these events. The following events got very favorable press coverage. This is key to our success as getting the Lisbon brand to "top of mind" will encourage visitors and investors.

The Save Main St block party was held on Aug 20 and well attended. The live music was a hit and folks enjoyed the craft market and the outdoor dining and dancing. We received extensive coverage from WMTW and the Sun Journal.





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On 9/7, The Sausage Kitchen held a free lunch for the workers from Magee Construction behind their building. While I was not involved in this event, I was able to procure coverage from WMTW and Sun Journal.



On September 10, the Railroad Pub hosted a motorcycle ride and tribute to fallen firefighters from 9/11 and from Maine in the line of duty over the last few years. I worked closely with the 911 NFT team and assisted them in procuring police escorts, Lisbon FD Ladder truck, Boy Scout color guard and even a singer for the national anthem. This event received great coverage from WGME and the Sun Journal.



I have been working with the two local ATV clubs and public safety officials on a plan to connect the Lisbon ATV trails to the Lisbon Falls ATV trails. This connection, plus the future conversion of the rail to trail, will allow us to market Lisbon as a central Maine trail riding destination. With the trail allowing access to both downtown regions, we will be able to have folks enjoy local restaurants by ATV.

I recently met with students in the PW Sugg Middle School JMG program and discussed what it is like to run a business. I then connected their JMG coordinator with the local business community and to date 4 tours have been arranged for these students to visit local businesses.



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Going forward, I will be hosting a public meeting at Olive Pit brewing to give folks a chance to get to know me and learn about upcoming projects here in Lisbon. This meeting will also serve as our public informational setting required as part of the Resilience Partnership.

In October, there are multiple events planned including a joint meeting of the LA Metro Chamber and Bath Brunswick regional Chamber here in Lisbon with the Lisbon business leaders. Our businesses are hosting 3 events in October.

Olive pit, along with PCL is hosting an Oktoberfest on October 14th on Main St.

Franks, along with PCL is hosting a Halloween party on October 28th on Main St.

PCL will be hosting the annual Harvest Festival on October 29th at MTM Park.

I also intend to hold an additional Business Breakfast in October.

Respectfully,

Ross H. Cunningham