



## *City of Caribou, Maine*

*Municipal Building*  
25 High Street  
Caribou, ME 04736  
*Telephone (207) 493-3324*  
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### **AGENDA**

#### **Caribou Riverfront Renaissance 6:00 pm January 18, 2022**

#### **Caribou City Council Chambers**

**Note: COVID-19 Protocol will be in effect, masks must be worn when social distancing can not be enforced.**

- I. Call Meeting to Order, Determine Quorum
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Approval of the minutes for the November 23, 2021, Caribou Riverfront Renaissance Committee Meeting
- III. Further discussion Maine DOT, Office of Freight and Passenger Services for conversation regarding potential Reuse Options for the Railroad ROW and projects at the Limestone Street Bridge and Railroad ROW culvert at Otter Brook.
- IV. Outreach to neighboring communities
- V. Zoning and Land Use Table
  - a. Planning Board Insights
- VI. New Business
  - a. Master Plan
  - b. Branding
- VII. Ideas and Insights
- VIII. Adjournment



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January 11, 2022

Re: Caribou Riverfront Renaissance

Greetings and Happy New Year 2022.

We would like to take this opportunity to communicate to our neighboring communities Caribou's ambitious riverfront redevelopment initiative.

Caribou is working to restore an historical and once vibrant area of our community, concentrating on mixed land use, commercial and residential uses, public trails, and common spaces.

As we begin the task of drafting our master plan, we've realized that our overall strategy may also be of interest to our neighbors in Central Aroostook County in that our Riverfront Redevelopment District features the Aroostook River and the railroad corridor currently run by Maine Northern Railway. Both features link our communities in several ways.

The Aroostook River, as it runs through Presque Isle, Caribou, and Fort Fairfield, offers excellent recreational, and water-related opportunities. In addition to being a premier trout fishery, boating and paddling opportunities abound. Historically Caribou held the "Anything that floats raft race" during Fort Fairfield's Potato Blossom Festival and more recently, in 2021, the inaugural Spring Run-Off Kayak/Canoe Race was held from the boat landing Lower Lyndon Street to Forbes' Pit Boat landing.

The railroad corridor, currently leased from Maine Department of Transportation by Maine Northern Railway, an Irving Lands subsidiary, connects Presque Isle, Caribou, Fort Fairfield, and Limestone together via rail. Regular rail service, however, has not been offered north of Northeast Paving on the Reach Road in Presque Isle to Caribou for a decade and not since the mid 1990's to Fort Fairfield and Limestone.

This rail corridor not only connects our communities, but it also runs through the heart of the Caribou Riverfront Development District. As we contemplate possible reuse of this area, we are considering the potential for restored rail service, interim rail/multi use trail system, or possibly a more traditional "rails to trails" application allowing a recreational use connection to the communities in Central Aroostook County and beyond.

As we weigh our options for the redevelopment of this area of our community, we would like to invite our neighboring communities into the conversation so that we may better understand your needs and vision for the regional impact of this project as well as gage your overall support for the plan.

The Caribou Riverfront Renaissance Committee will be reaching out to you individually, but if you would like to learn more about our initiative or offer us any insights regarding a project of this scope prior to that, please feel free to call us at 493-5967 and ask for Ken or email at [kmurchison@cariboumaine.org](mailto:kmurchison@cariboumaine.org).

Best Regards

Kenneth Murchison, Jr.  
Zoning Administrator