

City of Caribou, Maine

Municipal Building 25 High Street Caribou, ME 04736 Telephone (207) 493-3324 Fax (207 498-3954

AGENDA Caribou Planning Board Regular Meeting Thursday October 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will be broadcast on Cable Channel 1301 and the City's YouTube Channel. Public Comments submitted prior to the meeting no later than 4:00 pm on Thursday, September 7, 2023, will be read during the meeting. Send comments to City Manager Penny Thompson at pthompson@cariboumaine.org.

I.	Call Meeting to Order, Determine Quorum, disclosure of conflicts of interest			
II.	Public Hearings Site design review – Kip Griffin 960 Access Highway			
III.	Approval of minutes a. Review and approval of September 7, 2023, Planning Board Meeting Minutes			
IV.	City Council Liaison Updates			
V.	New Business a. Community Conversation on Vision & Mission, 10.26.2023 Comp Plan b. Exchange ideas to boost housing in Caribou	101 102		
VI.	Old Business a. LD 2003 / LD 1706 update b. Update on grant funded projects c. Blight			
VII.	Staff Report			
VIII.	Adjournment			



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www.cariboumaine.org

Caribou Planning Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 7, 2023 @ 6:00 pm City Council Chambers

Members Present: Steve Wentworth, Frank McElwain, James Belanger, Eric Hitchcock, Amanda Jandreau,

Justin Staples, David Corriveau, Dan Bagley, Council Liaison, Penny Thompson, Staff

Others in Attendance: Kip Griffin, Karen Gorman

I. Call Meeting to Order, Determine Quorum, disclosure of conflicts of interest

Chairperson Amanda Jandreau called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm, all were present. No conflicts of interest.

II. Public Hearings

None.

III. Approval of minutes

Minutes of August 3, 2023 were reviewed and approved.

Motion by David Corriveau to approve minutes, seconded by Frank McElwain.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Wentworth – Yes; Frank McElwain - Yes; James Belanger – Yes; Eric Hitchcock – Yes; Justin Staples – Yes; David Corriveau – Yes; Amanda Jandreau – Yes.

. Passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Council Liaison Update

- Council liaison Dan Bagley, discussed a Land Bank.
 - o Working on a development plan how to follow the whole process through.
 - o Need to keep an eye on the tax acquired property new guidance.
 - o CEGC would be a good advisory group.
- Discussion on tax acquired property

V. New Business

- a. Site design review Kip Griffin 960 Access Highway
 - discussion with Kip Griffin about his business operation
 - could send to MMA Legal what conditions
 - 1 dismantled car max parts, drained fluids
 - Action Item From MMA Legal can we waive the 300' requirement

Motion by Eric Hitchcock to have a public hearing, seconded by David Corriveau.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Wentworth –Yes; Frank McElwain - Yes; James Belanger – Yes; Eric Hitchcock – Yes; Justin Staples – Yes; David Corriveau – Yes; Amanda Jandreau – Yes.

- . Passed by unanimous vote.
- b. Looking ahead to projects in the pipeline:
 - Police station
 - -Recycler permit

VI. Old Business

- a. Blight research from last meeting. It was noted to use the Property Maintenance Code; Vacant Building Code; Ordinances; and Blight Tool Kit, etc. The Board agreed they would like to have a dangerous building action taken for the Sweden Street property.
- b. Comprehensive Plan August 31 workshop (Economy), September 28 (Public Facilities)
- c. Update on grant funded projects -workgroups, public input, and "Big Picture" initiative name.
- d. PL 2021, ch. 672 (LD2003) and PL 2023, ch. 192 (LD 1706)

VII. Staff Report – by Penny Thompson, City Manager

- a. Karen Gorman thanked the Planning Board members
- b. Comprehensive Plan using Social Media
- c. Talked about CEO position
- d. Loring updates not in talks with LDA coverage
- e. Monthly permit report

VIII. Next Meeting

- a. October 12, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Caribou City Council Chambers
- b. Dave Corriveau asked to add to the next agenda exchange ideas on boosting housing in Caribou

IX. Adjournment

Motion by David Corriveau to adjourn, seconded by Frank McElwain

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Wentworth –Yes; Frank McElwain - Yes; James Belanger – Yes; Eric Hitchcock – Yes; Justin Staples – Yes; David Corriveau – Yes; Amanda Jandreau – Yes.

. Passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting Adjourned 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Belanger Planning Board Secretary

JRB/JK

CARIBOU ADMINISTRATION 25 HIGH STREET CARIBOU, ME. 04736

MEMO

To: Planning Board Members

From: Penny Thompson, City Manager

Date: October 12, 2023

Re: Community Conversation on Vision and Mission for the 2024-2034 Comp Plan

Tonight, we are going to hear from Catherine Ingraham from CEI Consultants who will be our facilitator for our Community Conversation on Vision and Mission for the 2024 – 2034 Comprehensive Plan on October 26, 2023.

Catherine (Cat) Ingraham is a resident of Perham. She has been working in community planning and development for about ten years. She started in municipal planning for Androscoggin County and moved into non-profit community development work in 2016. She has been working with Community Heart & Soul in her current capacity since 2020 in several towns/cities across Maine and one in Massachusetts. Cat says she is excited to work with Caribou.

The logistics are October 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., at the Caribou Wellness & Recreation Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this community visioning workshop and update on the Comprehensive Plan. Light refreshments and childcare will be provided.

Catherine will take us through her vision for how this session will work and what we can do to help get feedback from Caribou citizens.

For those who cannot attend, our website wonders have developed a website which will feature a form that will be active after the event. We also hope to be able to post updates and other feedback opportunities here.

https://www.cariboumaine.org/caribou2034/

CARIBOU ADMINISTRATION 25 HIGH STREET CARIBOU, ME. 04736

MEMO

To: Planning Board Members

From: Penny Thompson, City Manager

Date: October 12, 2023

Re: Exchange ideas on boosting housing in Caribou



Planning Board member David Corriveau asked for an agenda item to have an exchange of ideas on boosting housing in Caribou.

CARIBOU ADMINISTRATION 25 HIGH STREET CARIBOU, ME. 04736

MEMO

To: Planning Board Members

From: Penny Thompson, City Manager

Date: October 12, 2023

Re: Update on LD 2003 / LD 1706



LD 2003 was signed into law in April 2022 and requires municipalities to amend or create new zoning ordinances. It was designed to remove regulatory barriers to housing production, allow additional density for affordable housing developments, additional dwelling units per lot in residential areas, and accessory dwelling units on the same lot as a single-family home.

LD 1706 clarifies the implementation date. The implementation date for Caribou is January 1, 2024. I'm not convinced this is a reasonable target. The Department amended 19-100 CMR Chapter 5. That final rule was effective October 1, 2023.

Housing Opportunity Program grant funding is available for service providers to support municipal ordinance development. The City of Caribou supported the application of Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) to obtain a 2023 Service Provider Grant. They were awarded the grant and could begin work on October 1, 2023.

This legislation has established the Housing Opportunity Program within DECD and they are providing guidance (enclosed).

The actions that will need to be taken by the City of Caribou:

• Work with NMDC for ordinance development.

Other considerations:

- City can add provisions. Example: that one unit per lot with an ADU is owner-occupied.
- Many areas of Caribou are served by subsurface wastewater disposal systems.

REQUESTED ACTION:

No action needed, this is for discussion so that staff can get direction.



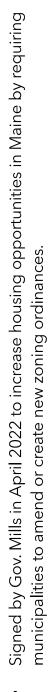
PL 2021, ch. 672 Opportunity Program (LD 2003) Housing

Department of

The Economic & Community Development

C

LD 2003 Overview



- Designed to remove unnecessary regulatory barriers to housing production, while preserving local ability to create land use plans.
- Broadly, LD 2003 allows:
- For additional density for affordable housing developments;
- The addition of between 2 and 4 dwelling units per lot in residential areas;
- Accessory dwelling units on the same lot as a single-family home.
- Includes requirements that the
- State establish housing production goals; and
- Municipalities align ordinances with the federal Fair Housing Act and Maine Human Rights Act.
- Established the Housing Opportunity Program in DECD.

2023

Why does LD 2003 matter?

LD 2003 is one tool to support the development of additional housing units in Maine by encouraging the development of many different types of housing, including affordable housing units. Not all units built according to the requirements in LD 2003 must be "affordable" as defined by HUD.

LD 2003 removes regulatory barriers to creating additional housing, while allowing municipalities to:

Continue to create land use plans and protect sensitive environmental resources through comprehensive planning; Regulate housing development based on documented water and wastewater capacity constraints;

Enforce shoreland zoning; and

Create rate of growth ordinances.

Affordable Housing Density Bonus

\$ 4364

30-A M.R.S.

 Creates an automatic density bonus for certain "affordable housing developments."

To qualify for bonus, development must

 \checkmark Be approved on or after a municipality's implementation date;

 \checkmark Designate more than 51% of the units in the development as affordable; \checkmark Be in a designated growth area as defined by Maine law or served by public water and sewer or a comparable system;

✓ Be in an area in which multifamily dwellings are allowed;

 \checkmark Meet shoreland zoning requirements, meet minimum lots sizes if using subsurface waste disposal, and prove that water and sewer capacity is adequate for the development.

Affordable Housing Density Bonus

30-A M.R.S.

\$ 4364

Housing Opportunity Program

What is a designated growth area?

An area designated in a municipality's comprehensive plan that is suitable for development, especially over the next 10 years.

 If eligibility requirements are met, the affordable housing development qualifies for the following exceptions to zoning requirements:

• The number of units allowed will be 2.5 times greater than the number allowed for a development not designated as affordable (base density). The off-street parking requirements may not exceed 2 spaces for every 3 units.

What does "affordable" mean?

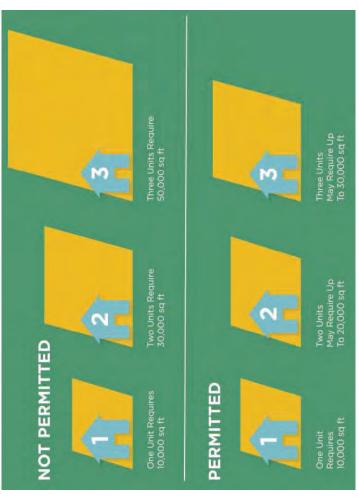
- For rentals: a household with an income at no more than 80% of the area median income for the community, as defined by HUD, must be able to afford at least 51% of the units in the development.
- For homeowners: a household with an income at more than defined by HUD, must be able to afford at least 51% of the 120% of the area median income for the community, as units in the development.
- Affordable units must be restricted through a restrictive covenant for at least 30 years.

Area Median Income:

- updated annually by HUD
- on MaineHousing's AMI data available website

30-A M.R.S. § 4364-A, Residential Areas; Up to 4 Dwelling Units

- Requires municipalities to allow between 2-4
 dwelling units on lots where residential uses
 are allowed, with evidence of sufficient water
 and wastewater capacity.
- Municipalities may not apply different dimensional requirements to lots with more than one housing unit on them than they would to a lot with one housing unit, with the exception that minimum lot area per dwelling unit can be required, as long as the lot area required is not less for the first unit than for subsequent units.



Number of Units

General Rule: Up to 2 Units

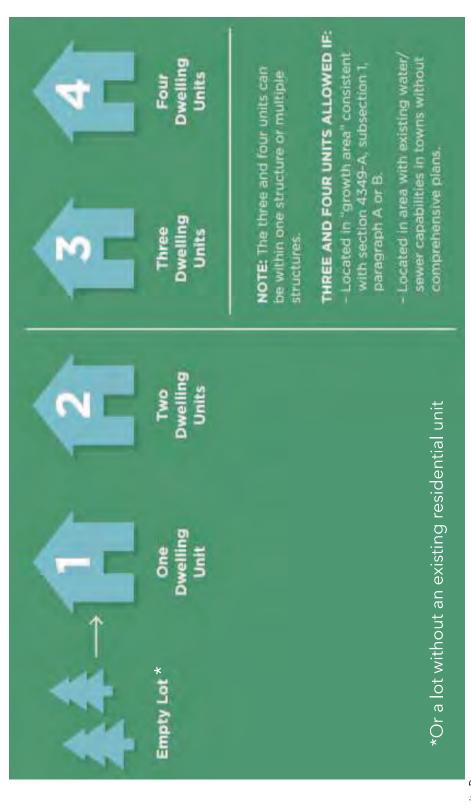
- Generally, a municipality must allow up to 2 dwelling units per lot if that lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit.
- A lot with an existing dwelling unit may have up to two additional dwelling units either attached, detached, or one of each.

Exception: Up to 4 Units

- A municipality must allow up to 4 units on a lot that permits residential uses if the lot does not contain an existing unit and:
- Is located within a designated growth area; or
- Is served by public water and sewer (or a comparable designation) in a municipality without a comprehensive plan.

Municipalities may allow more than the minimum number of units described above.

Example 1: Empty Lot*



Example 2: Existing Home

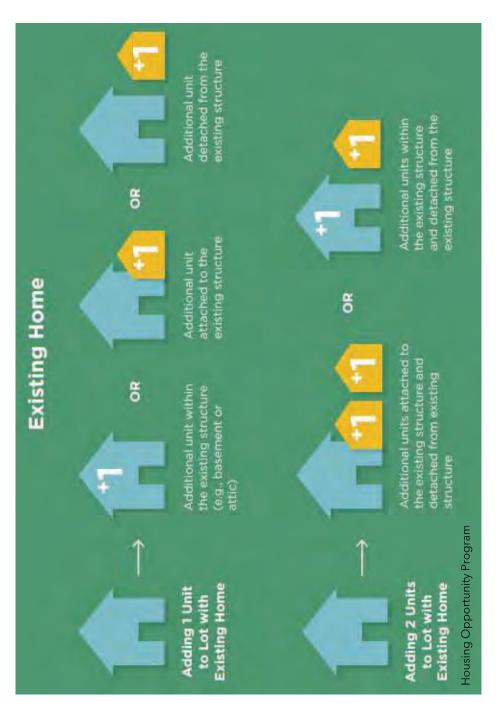
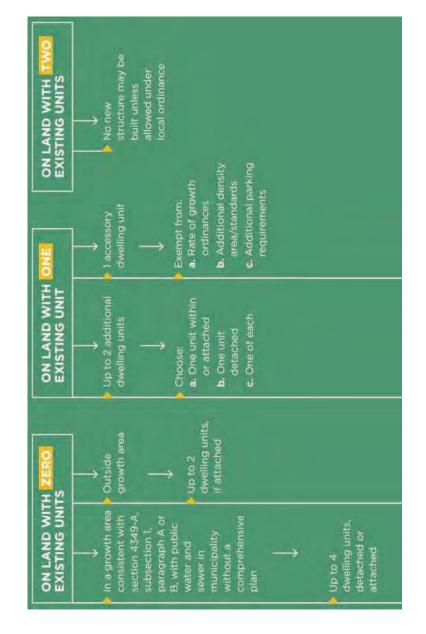


diagram are intended to be governs dwelling units, not accessory dwelling units. accessory dwelling units. 30-A M.R.S. 4364-A only Note: Orange units in dwelling units, not

dwelling unit and accessory between the two structure ordinance to differentiate Municipalities can define dwelling unit in local

Restrictions on Additional Density

- constructed as a result of this section of LD 2003, the lot is not eligible for any additional increases in density, If more than one dwelling unit is unless otherwise allowed by the municipality.
- owner would not be able to build an constructed a duplex on a lot with an accessory dwelling unit on that lot as existing single-family home, a lot well, unless this was permitted in For example, if a lot owner ocal ordinance.



Housing Opportunity Program

 \equiv

2023

Accessory **Dwelling** Units

30-A

§ 4364-B

M.R.S.

residential uses are allowed, including as a conditional use, to have one • This section allows a lot with a single-family dwelling in an area where accessory dwelling unit.

- The ADU can be:
- Within the existing home;
- Attached to it; or
- A new structure.
- the dimensional requirements, including setback requirements, for a single-family home continue to apply unless the municipality makes An ADU is exempt from zoning density requirements but them more permissive.

ADUs

M.R.S. 30-A

§ 4364-B

Housing Opportunity Program

 A municipality may not require additional parking for the addition of an ADU (except those allowed for the single-family unit).

 ADUs <u>must</u> be at least 190 square feet in size. Municipalities can set a maximum size. Municipalities <u>may</u> establish an application and permitting process for ADUs that does not require planning board approval.

zoning ordinance, if the accessory structure does not further increase An ADU is permitted on a lot that does not conform to the municipal the nonconformity.

• Municipalities may regulate short term rentals in local ordinance.

requirements for accessory dwelling units of the municipality and under An accessory dwelling unit that was not built with municipal approval must be allowed if the accessory dwelling unit otherwise meets the this section

land use consider

Other

standards

Valid and enforceable easements, covenants, deed restrictions and other agreements or instructions between private parties still apply, as long as the agreement does not restrict constitutional rights.

Subdivision law may still apply to lots.

Shoreland zoning still applies to lots located within the shoreland zone.

• Municipalities cannot categorically prohibit ADUs in the shoreland zone but municipal shoreland zoning ordinances *may* restrict the addition of an ADU. Developments must comply with minimum lot size requirements in accordance with Title 12, chapter 423-A, as applicable.

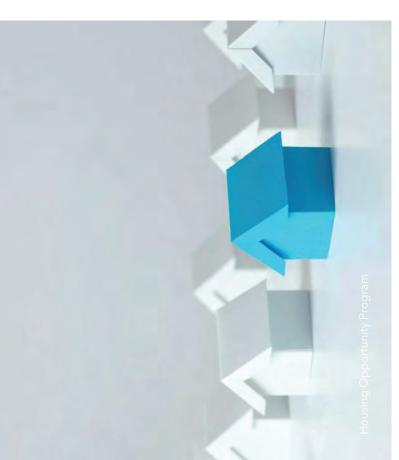
• All units must be connected to adequate water and wastewater services before the municipality may certify the development for occupancy.

2023

Implementation Date

P.L.2023, ch. 192 (LD 1706) An Act to Clarify Statewide Laws Regarding Affordable Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units

- This legislation changes the implementation date for municipal compliance to the following:
- January 1, 2024, for municipalities for which ordinances may be enacted by the municipal officers without further action or approval by the voters of the municipality; and
- July 1, 2024, for all other municipalities



Rulemaking

The Department is in the process of amending 19-100 CMR Ch. 5 because of the passage of LD 1706.

Public Comment

August 2-September 11

Summary of Comments

September 2023

Adoption

Late September/ Early October 2023

Housing Opportunity Program

119

Which statues of LD 2003 apply to my municipality?

Affordable Housing Density Bonus 30-A M.R.S. 4364

Applies to municipalities

- (1) Adopted density requirements and
- (2) Designated growth areas OR public water/sewer

Up to Four Dwelling Units

30-A M.R.S. 4364-A

Applies to all municipalities.

Number of allowed units on a lot will depend on whether:

- designated growth area OR (1) a lot is within a
- (2) a lot has public water/sewer in a municipality without a comprehensive plan

ADU

30-A M.R.S. 4364-B

Applies to all municipalities

Housing Opportunity Program

2023

Key Questions to Consider during Ordinance Review

- Does my town need to amend existing sections or create new sections of ordinance to comply with LD
- Does my town have established density requirements?
- Does my town allow multifamily housing?
- Where are my towns growth areas, if applicable?
- Where is public water and sewer located, if applicable?
- What are my town's parking requirements, if applicable?
- What are my town's procedures for determining "adequate water and wastewater?"
- Does my town have water/sewer systems that could be considered "comparable systems?"
- Some provisions of LD 2003 allow for municipal choice (may vs. must). Does my municipality want to set standards in these areas? See next slide.

Options to Consider during Ordinance Review

|--|

Questions?

Hilary Gove and Benjamin Averill

Housing Opportunity Program Coordinators

housing.decd@maine.gov

https://www.maine.gov/decd/housingopportunityprogram

Update on grant funded projects (and other good stuff)

October 11, 2023

EPA Brownfields FY2023

Diesel Plant and other outbuildings

\$900,000

\$472,550

Qualified Environmental Professional has been selected – County Environmental Engineering, Inc ASAP payment portal is all set up to be able to receive grant funding.

Cooperative Agreement has been received from the US EPA.

Grantee training in Biddeford on September 14, 2023 & Massachusetts on September 27.

Online ACRES (reporting portal) training ongoing.

Funding anticipated anytime.

CERLA EPA Emergency Action on Steam Plant UNKNOWN Action plan from US EPA Region 1 has been received. EPA / DEP onsite, waiting for more information.

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Riverfront Plan & Projects

Paperwork to accept grant and start environmental review paperwork submitted.

Mandatory Grantee zoom was 9/27. LDD Contract approved at 10/10 City Council meeting. Story on WAGM, Tuesday 9/26.

Congressionally Directed Spending Requests

FY2022 Senator Collins Police Station \$2.5 million

Working with Artifex. No word on when any funds will be made available.

FY2022 Senator Collins Mill Pond Reconstruction / Dam / Fishway \$4.4 million

Paperwork submitted. No word on when any funds will be made available.

FY2023 Senator Collins Improvements to Fire Station \$1.359 million

Cleared the appropriations committee, waiting for full budget approval.

FY2023 Senator King Energy improvements at Library (with a GOPIF request)

Cleared the appropriations committee, waiting for full budget approval.

ARPA NEU Funds

2021 Broadband Study

2022 Used as match for County ARPA project

2023 Used as match for County ARPA project

ARPA – Aroostook County matching funds

FY2022	Improvements to Fire Station & Ambulance equipment	\$150,000
FY2023	Fire department turn-out gear, Police body worn cameras & radios	\$100,349

Visit Caribou Page 2

The Enterprise Grant through the Maine Tourism Marketing Partnership Program was a reimbursable grant through the Maine Office Tourism. With this \$10,000 grant, the City was able to build out the cariboumaine.org/visit website with the tagline "Caribou is Calling" with a QR code and increased the social media presence. We advertised on the Maine State Highway Map, the Maine Snowmobiler, "The County" Guidebook from NMDC and the Bangor Daily Fall insert. Caribou even caught the attention of Yankee magazine who published a snowmobile adventure video (free) and the banner purchased with grant funds was featured prominently in the background of an interview the City Manager gave on the Weather Channel. The invoice has been paid to reimburse the city for those approved expenses.

Façade Improvement

The semi-annual façade improvement grant application period has closed. Meeting with applicants 10/13 to make recommendations to the City Council on awards.

Broadband

Charter / Spectrum applied for and was awarded a grant from the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) for last mile access in Caribou. There are contract issues to be resolved. Hoping for an update soon.

DEP Small Communities Grant – we are working with one resident to have a new septic field installed.

Possible Future DOT RAISE grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity)

Step 1 - Department of Transportation, Village Partnership Initiative - RFP is out now (due Friday)

The Caribou City Council has appropriated \$50,000 to pay for half of a DOT VPI transportation plan.

Other Aroostook County municipalities who are using this program are: Ft. Kent, Madawaska, Van Buren, and Presque Isle. Jarod, our DOT area representative, hopes to take projects that the communities support and roll them into a large Aroostook County RAISE grant.

I have also talked to MeDOT Region 5 about repairing the fences (owned by MeDOT) on the City's southern gateways on Route 1.



City Manager's Report October 10, 2023

Economic Projects

River Front - Powerplants	Met with EPA & DEP at the Riverfront Power Plants site to discuss CERCLA action. EPA contractors were also at the site to determine how to proceed with removing compromised materials from the building.
Broadband Initiative	The contract between the Maine Connectivity Authority and Charter / Spectrum was due back to MCA by 09/30/2023.
CDBG	No new updates.
Ogren Dump Solar Project	No new updates.
Events and Marketing	The 49th Annual Caribou Craft Fair is October 21 & 22 10-4 at Caribou High School with over 135 vendors. This is Aroostook County's oldest and largest Craft Fair and has really put Caribou on the map.
Landbank	No new updates.
Chapter 13 Rewrite	No new updates.
Federal American Rescue Plan Act	No new updates.
Blight Cleanup	Some owners are trying to do the right thing by working with the City, others are ignoring our efforts.
Birdseye Cleanup	No new updates.
Caribou Development Committee	Next meeting is October 18th at 6:00 pm
River Front - Master Plan	LDD contract is on tonight's agenda.
Façade Improvement Program	The application period has closed. Staff will bring a recommendation to the City Council at the next meeting.
Aldrich ATV/Snowmobile Storage	No new updates.
Caribou Economic Growth Council	Next meeting is October 26th at 7:00 am
Business Outreach	Fall business newsletter is in the works. Small business Saturday is November 25.

	Other Administrative Projects
Tax Acquired Property Policy	See additional information on this subject.
Nylander	Saturday October 14 @ 9:00 am will be the soft opening for the Nylander Museum.
Fire Structural Work	No new updates.
Fire Station Renovations	No new updates.
Police Station	No new updates.
River Road	No new updates.
Investment Policy	No new updates.
Trailer Park Closure	No new updates.
Cable Franchise Renewal	No new updates.
Airport	No new updates.
Personnel Policy	No new updates.
New LED Street lights	No new updates.
Comp Plan Update	Community Visioning and Update Session will be held on Thursday October 26 @ 6:00 pm at the Wellness Center. All are invited. Childcare provided.
LD 2003 Implementation	NMDC received funding to begin working on this October 1.
15 Prospect Street	Several meetings with owner.
Water Street Fire	On tonight's agenda.
Age-Friendly Efforts	No new updates.
Personnel Changes	Public Works, Caribou Police Department, Caribou Public Library and Caribou Code Enforcement all hiring.
DOT Village Partnership	RFP is out. Bids due back October 13.
Aroostook Waste Solutions	Construction of 5&6 underway despite all of the rain, only delayed 2 weeks.
Cary Medical Center	100th Anniversary in 2024. Planning underway. If you have old photos, memorabilia or stories, please reach out to Bill Flagg.
Administrative Approvals	Jade Palace, Par & Grill and Caribou Inn and Convention Center liquor license and Special Amusement permits
Other Updates	Congratulations to Spud Sweedway for a successful Caribou Dust Bowl.

Monthly Permit Report

September 2023

	CURRENT	YEAR	PRIOR YEAR	PRIOR YEAR
	MONTH	TO DATE	MONTH	TO DATE
BUILDING PERMITS	3	35	5	45
HOMES	0	4	0	2
MOBILE HOMES	0	0	0	2
MULTI-FAMILY	0	0	0	0
COMMERCIAL	0	11	0	5
EXEMPT	0	4	0	1
PLUMBING PERMITS				
INTERNAL	1	12	0	11
EXTERNAL	0	9	1	6
DEMO PERMITS	0	9	1	16
SIGN PERMITS	0	3	1	12

Year-to-Date is January 2023 to September 2023