



*****DRAFT*****

Merchants Meeting
June 7, 2018 at 8:30am
Bull Feeney's
375 Fore Street

Board members present: Suzie Rephan

Others present: Megan Doane, Steve Corman, Madalyn Eliason, Jenn Tomlinson, Kelly Crotty, Dan Knight, Anne Karonis, Ashley Baker, Jamie Calenda, Joanna Pease, Tom Largay, Maria Wolff, Nancy Lawrence, Doug Fuss

Guests: Katie Shorey, Startup Maine/People's United Bank

Staff present: Adam MacDonald, Casey Gilbert, Taffy Eaton

Minute 1. Suzie Rephan welcomed everyone, asked for introductions and thanked Doug Fuss for hosting the meeting. Megan Doane made a motion to approve the May 2, 2018 meeting minutes. Tom Largay seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

- Nancy Lawrence thanked Suzie Rephan for serving as the Merchant Representative on the Portland Downtown Board of Directors
- Casey spoke about Board service and thanked Suzie for all she has contributed as a Board and committee member

Minute 2. Startup Maine presentation: June 21 – 23 – Katie Shorey. Casey introduced Katie who described Startup Maine as a mentality of problem solvers. The event is 5-years old and highlights companies and people of interest in Maine. It was a week-long event, now it is 2 – 2.5 days.

- There will be keynote speakers, case studies, workshops and Maine stories will be highlighted
- Startup Maine is partnering with Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce for the kickoff event at Aura on June 21st from 4:00 – 6:00PM
- The actual event is Friday and Saturday during the day at MECA
 - Battledex will be at Think Tank on Friday evening
 - Capital Resource Providers is featured on Saturday evening
- 350 tickets have been sold so far and Katie is hoping for 500 attendees at the event at MECA
- Katie asked merchants to offer discounts or come up with other ways to entice customers into their stores. Let Katie know about your offer and she will put together a poster of participating businesses for attendees and a window placard for the businesses.
- Katie also offered merchants a 50% discount on tickets
- Startupmaine.org

Minute 3. Merchant Representative/voting discussion: Suzie asked Tom Largay to speak about the reason he chose to run for the position and encouraged merchants to vote

Minute 4. Summer Kickoff Weekend update:

- Casey thanked Adam for all the print, web and social media presence
- The Touch-A-Truck area is planned and mapped
- Changes were made to the event in order to showcase the local community
- This is the 3rd year of Summer Shop for A Cause. Merchants nominated, voted on and chose the Frannie Peabody Center as beneficiary. Casey thanked all the merchants for their support and involvement.

Suzie's added that her goal when she joined the Board, was a Summer Kickoff Weekend type event and is pleased with PD staff and the Board that they made it happen. The Friday evening Square Hop highlights Congress Street businesses. Casey thanked Maria with Maine Craft Portland for opening in Mechanics Hall on Congress Street.

Adam reminded everyone present of the weekend schedule:

- a) **Square Hop lineup:** Friday evening June 8th 6-8pm
 - Longfellow Square - Port Fringe (Portland Monthly Magazine sponsoring)
 - Congress Square Park - Maine Academy of Modern Music (Se Vende sponsoring)
 - Monument Square - Casco Bay Movers (Spectrum sponsoring)
 - Post Office Park - Maine Marimba Ensemble (Norway Savings Bank sponsoring)
- b) **Shop for A Cause:** Saturday June 9th
 - Beneficiary: Frannie Peabody Center. Camden National Bank is sponsoring the event and will have a tent in Post Office Park from 12 – 2PM. They will be handing out 50 - \$10 gift cards to the first 50 visitors.
- c) **Walk the Working Waterfront:** Saturday June 9th - wharves and piers are open to the public from 11:00 – 3:00
- d) **Old Port Festival update**
 - Portland Downtown pushed to get more Old Port businesses involved. There were 27 in 2017 and there are 42 this year.
 - 8 food trucks this year
 - Suzie added that this year is a celebration of local businesses and local products which is long overdue. Old Port Festival started as a way to get people downtown to celebrate local businesses. Suzie thanked those who got involved.
 - Adam showed everyone the 4-page Portland Press Herald insert
 - Casey will be on the radio with Portland Radio Group tomorrow and TV also to highlight the weekend

Minute 5. Merchant brag time!

- **Maine Crafts Portland:** Maria said the association has been around for 30 years, celebrating all mediums. The 519 Congress Street store is their 2nd store, the other being in Gardner. This store will be more contemporary, and all the crafts are made in Maine. 100 artists are involved.
- **Jibe Cycling Studio:** Joanna Pease said the cycling studio offers rhythm riding 7 days a week at 20 Free Street
- **Pure Barre:** Jamie Calenda said they are a boutique fitness studio using a barre and isometric movements. "Find a longer you through longer muscles." They are at 477 Fore Street, next to Dean Sweets and are so grateful to be in Portland.

Minute 6. Other business:

- Robert O'Brien informed everyone that Bob Gibbs, a national retail consultant, will be doing a workshop at Build Maine next week and distributed flyers
- Jenn said the Cat ferry starts tomorrow and offered a 20% promotional rate to those present
- Megan let everyone know that Port Fringe will be at Portland Stage in a couple weeks and there will be a large influx of people downtown
- Mary Alice said Portland Buy Local is celebrating Independents Week July 1st – July 7th. PBL will be organizing events so let her know about events your business will have so she can promote them.
- Nancy mentioned that Portmanteau is launching "Pushing 40" and is asking anyone with a Portmanteau bag to take a picture of them with it and send it to Facebook prior to the event
- July meeting date change/cancellation: July 5th right now. Suzie recommends changing it to July 11th. Taffy will check with Westin for availability.

Next meeting: Wednesday July 11th at 8:30am at Westin Portland Harborview Hotel (Top of the East) *Tentative – I'm waiting to hear back from my contact at the Westin)*

Respectfully submitted,
Taffy Eaton, Recorder