

**GPCOG Steering Committee Minutes**  
**November 18, 2009 Meeting**  
**12:00 p.m. at GPCOG**

**In attendance:** Gordy Billington, President, Standish; Tom Blake, South Portland; Pat Finnigan, Portland; Tony Plante, Windham; Mike Reynolds, Raymond

**Guests:** Chuck Farrell, Suzan Backer, Jackson Lab

**Staff:** Neal Allen, Maddy Adams, Eben Marsh, Ann Thompson, Donna Tippet

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Gordy Billington called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Introductions were made.
2. **Minutes: Meeting of September 23, 2009.** *Mike Reynolds moved approval of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes, seconded by Tom Blake. All were in favor of the motion.*
3. **PROGRAM: The Jackson Laboratory (Presentation).** Neal introduced this item. Neal had visited the Jackson Lab and was very impressed. He thought there might be opportunities for GPCOG and the Jackson Lab to develop a complementary economic development partnership. Neal introduced Suzan Backer. She explained that the Jackson Lab database is accessible to other researchers around the world. They are the only Maine organization that is a cancer designated center by the NCI. Jackson Lab is committed to using Maine vendors. They opened an office in Sacramento because they didn't have a presence on the west coast. Northern California is rich with biotech companies.

Jackson Lab is a nonprofit organization. Their location in Bar Harbor tends to be a recruitment issue. Stem cells were discovered at Jackson Lab and the first organ transplant was done there. They offer conferences and training courses. They also offer an internship for high school and college students. They are involved in "green" initiatives.

Chuck Farrell presented a PowerPoint. He noted that Southern Maine has opportunities to sell products to Bar Harbor. Some of the services that are being sought out of state that could be provided by Southern Maine include architects and construction. He would like to present the Jackson Lab PowerPoint to all of the GPCOG members. He thought there were things that we could do together programmatically. He spoke about Jackson Lab's funding.

Gordy thanked Suzan and Chuck for their very informative presentation.

4. **GPCOG PowerPoint.** Neal explained that this PowerPoint presentation is designed for South Portland but will serve as a template for similar presentations. Neal presented the PowerPoint for the Committee's input. Suggestions were made regarding the order of the slides, what should be highlighted, what should be added or deleted, etc. Tom expected a good audience when this is presented to South Portland including the City Council, Comp Plan Committee, school administrators, and dept. heads. He suggested Neal prepare a press release that he could send to the local paper.
5. **Updates.**
  - A. **Cumberland County Health District.** The two GPCOG representatives that have been serving on this committee (Shonn Moulton and Dick Brobst) can no longer serve. The group meets quarterly and their next meeting is Friday. Eben Marsh will attend the next

meeting representing GPCOG. We will add this item to the January Executive Committee agenda.

- B. Regional Planning Initiative.** Neal and Rebecca Schaffner had an excellent meeting yesterday with representatives from Bridgton, Naples, Casco, Raymond, Windham and Standish. Neal provided an update. They received good feedback and suggestions. There was strong support from the Managers in attendance.
- C. Efficiency Maine Energy Grants.** The applications are due today. GPCOG offered to help all of the towns with their applications. We provided some planning tools to help fulfill the grant requirements. We worked with SAD 61 on a custom grant. We also helped several towns with template grants.
- D. Center for Global Engagement.** A meeting was held last week. Gordy and Cathy attended. Deb Andrews is trying to get a few community leaders to sit with us and offer suggestions and support to make it a viable, sustainable program. It is a work in progress.
- E. CEDS.** Neal distributed a draft memo and asked for feedback from the Committee. We will be reconvening the CEDS Committee soon.

- 6. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.