Town of Lisbon

Fern Larochelle Chair 2026
Christopher Camire, Vice Chair 2027
Mark Lunt 2025
Normand Albert 2025
Jo-Jean Keller 2025
Jeremy Barnard 2027
Nick Craig 2027

MEMO

To: Town Council
From: Glenn Michalowski, Town Manager
Subject: Discover Lisbon Budget Presentation
Date: May 6, 2025

Summary

In 2024, the Town Council authorized a $10,000 appropriation from the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District to Discover Lisbon, a community development nonprofit formerly known as Positive Change Lisbon.

About Discover Lisbon:
Discover Lisbon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on downtown and community revitalization. Its mission is to bring together citizens, businesses, and local government to promote a vibrant, inclusive, and economically thriving community. The organization is an affiliate of Main Street America and is currently the only affiliate in the state with a paid director, a role jointly advocated for by the town and Discover Lisbon to support sustained progress.

Key Activities and Community Benefits:
Discover Lisbon hosts several hallmark events including the Summer Concert Series, Harvest Festival, Merry Main Street, Father-Daughter Dance, and Mother-Son Dance. These events, along with business support and beautification projects, enhance downtown vitality, increase foot traffic to local businesses, and foster community pride. Discover Lisbon also provides volunteers and services that the town would have to fund if not for their support. They change banners and decorations in the falls and village as well as provide multiple volunteers to Tasty Tuesday to guide parking and manage equipment and trash

Organizational History:
Founded in 2012 as Positive Change Lisbon after inspiration from a Maine Downtown Foundation event, the group has grown into a vital partner in economic development and community engagement. The rebranding to Discover Lisbon in 2024 reflects its evolution from change-making to showcasing and celebrating community success, adopting the tagline: *“Come discover what we’ve become.”*

Additional Town Support:
In addition to the $10,000 direct appropriation, the town funds a part-time position jointly housed in

Town of Lisbon

Fern Larochelle Chair 2026
Christopher Camire, Vice Chair 2027
Mark Lunt 2025
Normand Albert 2025
Jo-Jean Keller 2025
Jeremy Barnard 2027
Nick Craig 2027

the Economic and Community Development Office to further support Discover Lisbon's programs and coordination efforts.

This partnership continues to be a key component of our economic development strategy by enhancing quality of life, promoting Lisbon's assets, and supporting local business vitality.

Recommendation

Attachments

1. 02-06-2024 Minutes