

MEREDA CREATES NEW STANDING COMMITTEE

Local Issues Committee

MEREDA's mission is to promote an environment for responsible development and ownership of real estate throughout the state.

In furtherance of that mission, **MEREDA is introducing a new standing committee to monitor and timely engage on local land use and development matters.** Local activism and the use of municipal ordinance referenda is on the rise, and as the state's premiere development advocacy organization, MEREDA believes it is appropriate for a committee to monitor and address these issues.

The Local Issues Committee will have a two-fold mission: to develop and deploy a proactive educational initiative designed to inform developers across Maine in best practices and tools to minimize local resistance to a real estate development project; and to react to issues that rise to a level of concern that warrant the engagement of MEREDA or its members to influence the outcome of such an issue in a manner that is favorable to MEREDA and its members.

MEREDA is looking for interested members to join the Committee. If you've ever been frustrated about a local land use decision, struggled to overcome NIMBY'ism, or are generally interested in the myriad issues happening in development at the local level, please consider joining the Committee.

The Committee will meet up to six times per year, making it a low to moderate time commitment. As a member of the Committee, you will help guide MEREDA's engagement in local matters by monitoring key issues and setting criteria for MEREDA's engagement on matters of particular import to MEREDA's mission.

In addition, committee members will have the opportunity to weigh in on the deployment of a tool kit for use by developers to help them overcome local opposition and ensure a successful outcome for their projects.

We encourage anyone who is interested to reach out to Shelly R. Clark, Vice President of Operations at MEREDA by calling 207-874-0801 or sending an email to info@mereda.org.