**Maine Homeless Policy Committee**

Meeting minutes 10/23/15

In attendance: Donna Kelley, Awa Conteh, Ginny Dill, Elizabeth Szatkowski, Cullen Ryan, and Vickey Rand.

**I. Minutes. The minutes from 9/4 were approved.**

**II. Items of current focus.**

**Federal and State**. The group reviewed federal and state policy issues. **Federal:** Democrats and Republicans in Congress negotiated and passed a continuing resolution (CR) on 9/30, avoiding a government shutdown. The CR funds the government at approximate FY 15 levels through 12/11. Congressional leaders and the White House have started broader talks to work on a longer-term budget deal. But infighting among congressional Republicans after House Speaker John Boehner's abrupt resignation will make efforts to craft any package extremely difficult.

Before the CR runs out Congress will need to address increasing the debt ceiling, which has to be done by November 3rd (when the US will hit the debt limit).

The big question remains: What will happen in terms of raising the funding caps? Our Delegation is armed with information and well poised to do something about raising the caps; we have done our part to advocate. Senators King and Collins seem ready to do everything they can do to end sequestration.

**State:** The Senior Affordable housing bond, which passed the legislature during the last session at a reduced amount versus the initial legislation, will be on the November 2nd statewide ballot (question #2).

**III. Other.** There was brief discussion regarding Question 2 on the Portland municipal ballot, regarding development and obstructed views.

**IV. Meeting Dates**. The group meets the Friday prior to the Statewide Homeless Council, which is typically the first Friday of the month, but sometimes is the second Friday, at 3pm. The group decided to cancel the November meeting, and instead meet in December. **The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 4th, at 3pm.**