

## **Bristol Economic Development Committee**

**February 21, 2018**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Bill Dowey, Bruce Dorner, Vincent Paul Migliore, Les Dion, Janet Cavanagh, Paul Bemis (Visitor)

**Members Absent:** Carolyn Shulman, Rick Alpers.

**Others Present:** Nik Coates

Chairman Bill Dowey called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Bill Dowey asked if anyone had comments on the minutes of January 17, 2018. Vincent Paul Migliore said he would like to make a change to his comments at the last meeting. Bruce Dorner motioned to approve the amended minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting, seconded by Les Dion the vote was **4 in favor – 1 abstained** the motion passed.

Bill Dowey said that the select board was meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> and that Paul Bemis would be sworn in he will be our eighth member. Janet Cavanagh said she spoke to a woman downtown that was also interested in becoming a member. Bill Dowey stated that he felt that having a retail person on this committee would be a good thing.

#### **Project Updates:**

- Zoning Ordinance Amendment Requests (Nik)
- 2018 Budget Request (Nik)
- Fiber and Cell Providers (Bill)
- Pemi Trail (Bill)
- Other (All)

Bill Dowey brought up warrant article 22 and he read the article. Les Dion said that it's hard enough to get volunteers. They are saying that they do not want people that are not residents to be on the committees. She doesn't think we should be turning these people down when they are willing to help the community. I would hope this doesn't pass. Vincent Paul Migliore stated that he supports that however he doesn't think that nonresidents should be able to spend town money. They could recuse from the vote if they were on a committee. Bruce Dorner said that he feels that we should utilize the resources to find a way to get the business owners involved. Vincent Paul Migliore said he doesn't have a problem with the article.

Bill Dowey brought up warrant article 2 for SB2 saying that it would be voted on up front. Les Dion said that the voters may pass over the articles and choose not to vote on the warrants.

She can't imagine electing a Police Chief instead of hiring one in this day and age. Bruce Dorner asked if the warrant was done. Les Dion stated that it was complete and on the website. Bruce Dorner suggested that we should go over them as a committee to see if there is something that would impact what we are trying to accomplish. Vincent Paul Migliore stated that Bruce Dorner's suggestion was a good idea however, he feels that Bill Dowey as chair should speak for the committee.

Bill Dowey stated that he would also speak on article 30 regarding fiber, the back haul and cell providers when we finally settle it. Les Dion said that the zoning articles would be on ballots prior to town meeting and that we wouldn't be able to speak on them.

Bill Dowey brought up article 23 saying that it is regarding several parking spaces being designated for winter parking at the end of Spring Street. He thinks the committee would have an opinion on it. Les Dion said that there are also several spaces to park at the library and the mason plaza. She said that the apartment residents are not happy about that and Mark Bucklin does not want to see the spaces go because he wouldn't be able to put snow there until he is able to remove it. Janet Cavanagh asked if they would have a sign there for the spaces. Les Dion said that there will probably be a sign. She also said she hopes the town will vote for the \$53,000.00 project for Central Street because it would be helpful for the park project. Bill Dowey said he would also like to see bus parking at the park and walkways to downtown for people. Janet Cavanagh said she heard they want to make one of the streets a one way. Les Dion said she thought it was Spring Street. Janet Cavanagh asked if that would impact Jeff Goodrum with the red building that he purchased. Les Dion stated that she didn't think it would affect him because it was supposed to help the landlords with parking.

Bill Dowey told Nik Coates that the meeting was already open and that the committee had been discussing EDC comments for any of the warrants. Nik Coates said that he did not think that the article 23 for parking would pass. The selectmen can override the vote because by state law they are the keepers of the roads. He also said that the petitions are illegal or nonbinding because they are not consistent with state law because of the wording and the way they are written. Bill Dowey said if they are not structured correctly they are nonbinding. Nik Coates said the town can vote but the select board has the final decision. The zoning articles, SB2, and keno are all on the ballot. Right now John Shackett is very happy and positive with the town being proactive. Which says a lot about this committee. Bill Dowey said the committee is in support of the articles should we be having a public hearing. Nik Coates said he didn't think that was necessary. The committee could draft something for the newspaper to support articles 4, 5, and 6. Bill Dowey said he would generate a letter and send it to the committee. The committee could respond to me with feedback on the structure of the letter. Bill Dowey then asked Nik Coates if he thought the voters would be interested in keno. Nik Coates said that there was a public hearing for keno and not many people or businesses attended that hearing it lasted about five minutes.

Nik Coates said if we could get a few wins such as Verizon, ATT, the trail project and the fiber it would be very productive and the voters would see that as a big net gain. The town could make this available for less than the cost of Metrocast. The company would pay rent to the town

because they want to come to the town. This would be a revenue stream for the town. He also wants to show that it would be at a minimum revenue neutral. Right now this is a one company town with Metrocast. Janet Cavanagh said if a real estate agent got up and spoke on this at town meeting it would be helpful. Bill Dowey asked if that was all Nik Coates wanted to speak on.

Nik Coates spoke on the kiosk and said that Bill Smith would be at the Selectmen's meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> to help support the preliminary designs which will make the property look pretty nice. He said moving the chamber booth over would be nice for the bike trail and said the signage would say Mill Stream Park. Les Dion said it would be nice to put a name on that area. Nik said that Liz Kelly gave him a memo and a map of D Acres they are also putting a book together with all of the maps that will show other recreational opportunities that are available. They are also going to do a third panel on the kiosk. Bill Dowey mentioned that he and his wife Nancy attended the School Strategic Planning meeting. He thinks it would be a good idea if the schools communicated with the town as to what the kids are doing. Then the town's people would have a better idea and maybe feel better about the schools budget. He also said if a third panel was made available the EDC and the schools could get activities out to the town's people. Bruce Dorner stated that he felt the board should be more tourist focused than resident focused. Bill Dowey asked if the NLRA was going to pay for the panels. Nik Coates said yes but they would take one panel. Les Dion said we also need to have signs along the path. Bill Dowey said that he personally knows the D Acres people and he would speak to Liz Kelly and then speak to D Acres.

Bill Dowey said that there is a meeting scheduled with ATT on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Bill Dowey said that he and Nik Coates had a meeting about the Pemi Trail with the Army Corp of engineers. He said that DOT backed away from their potential. The erosion is at least 30 years old. So this project has been moved to the back burner. He said once Bristol Park gets developed the kids will create a trail by walking through. Bruce Dorner said it would be the start of a self- building trail. Bill Dowey said that we want a snowmobile trail because of revenue. We can take this up again midyear or in the fall. In speaking with Jeff Hayes the grant money he was chasing will not be available this year.

### **Other:**

Paul Bemis said that his wife Karen works for NLRA they are all good people and good contacts to have. We could do the theme of a Perfect Day in Bristol. What do we want to be what kind of campaign do we want to present. My thought is to expand what NLRA does. We could hand out a pamphlet with all the information at the kiosk. Janet Cavanagh said that we could have Kayaks at the Great Rocks but no power boats as we only have two access points to the lake. We could also repair bikes and snowmobiles at a store downtown. I will contact Karen. He also said that the committee has no money so we need a plan. Nik Coates stated that the town had one RFP company that was not good for municipal work however, they were good for marketing. They could work on what Paul Bemis is talking about. Paul Bemis said that Bristol could partner with Plymouth State University and maybe we could have the kids work on some

of the marketing. We have a lot to do here. I will keep working on this. Bruce Dorner said that he would sit with Paul Bemis and his wife Karen to get things going. Bill Dowey suggested that Bruce Dorner go speak to Liz Kelly on the PSU end of it and if they can't do it maybe we could speak to Dartmouth we have a good relationship with them, he will also get a sample of Karen's perfect days for the committee. Web apps would be a good thing for the marketing side of this. Nik Coates stated that the website company the town would like to hire does all of this we could ask them about the Economic Development apps. It would be free because we would have a contract with them. Bill Dowey asked how many perfect days Karen has done. Paul Bemis stated she has done about six of them but it would be a start for us just refine it. He doesn't mind working on it after all we are volunteers. These perfect days can be really fun for tourists giving them ideas of what you can do here in Bristol.

### **EDC Member Updates:**

Paul Bemis told the committee that he took Bill Dowey's suggestion and had attended the meeting in Concord which was not about solar as Bill thought. He said it was more about energy utilization and efficiency in the towns. There are a lot of great things going on in the state for energy efficiency. He said someone had done research at the grassroots level and there were local energy committees from different towns. Hanover is on a net zero drive to be efficient by a certain year and people are very interested. They are also talking about converting high schools to bio fuel or wood chips. Bill Dowey stated that the PUC would not commit to how much they would release for solar rebates. Paul Bemis said that this would include bio fuel and solar for net zero capital costs. In the later years you would get the benefit. Nik Coates said that Fred Regan who is very conservative put the bio mass system in place. Paul Bemis said there is opportunity here in Bristol to reduce our costs and promote energy efficiency. Nik Coates if voters saw this to be neutral in six years and then revenue plus for years seven to fifty it would be positive. Paul Bemis said that the strategy would be to get these things going and what may come of it. Nik Coates said that it would be positive if we could reduce our tax burden. We can look at the budget to see the bills. Bill Dowey said that the PUC put a cap on power and that it was limited to 10 megawatts is now lifted to 100. They pushed back on the renewable energy certificates from \$50.00 and the elected officials brought it down to \$10.00. Solar panel costs were also going down at the time. Nik Coates stated that can keep records of what we can do on a spreadsheet. Vincent Paul Migliore said that a lot of this is subsidized by the people who manage these private companies. Bill Dowey said that the town could certainly save big. Nik Coates we can have PSU accounting students pull the bills and create the spreadsheet. We can also call the company for our usage over the last two or three years. Vincent Paul Migliore said that the initiative in the school district that have already realized some savings with the Honeywell energy savings ideas and the paybacks are not being ignored. Paul Bemis the hydro plant could power the town. We could negotiate with New Hampton to take back control of our own power. The plant does help Ashland. Bristol has many resources to bring to the table they are significant. Nik Coates said we can take a look at our usage. Paul Bemis said that he did not want to detract from the park. Vincent Paul Migliore said this is one reason why we want to increase the size of our committee it would give us more opportunity. Nik Coates mentioned Ted Vanzant saying that he runs his own solar company. Bill

Dowey said that he could introduce Paul Bemis to Ted Vanzant. Nik Coates said that right now the selectmen have the proposal before them to increase the EDC from 7 members to 9 he thinks the committee should go to 11 members so the committee can broaden their involvement with the projects. Paul Bemis asked Nik Coates to feed him the data of the consumption at all town buildings. Nik Coates said he would ask Bob Blanchette to request the information from the electric company. Paul Bemis said that he would like to have information on the local small hydro plant that the town did have an opportunity to purchase. Nik Coates said that Tom Champlain would know who you could speak to for that.

Janet Cavanagh said that she would like to see the time of adjournment on the minutes of all meetings from now on so that the people realize how long the meetings last. Les Dion said she feels that the meetings should be kept to a certain amount of time people are going to be burnt out. Bill Dowey said that we only have one meeting a month right now which forces to go longer. He would like to go back to having a meeting every two weeks in order to keep momentum going. Nik Coates said that the nature of the problem with that is the meeting room being available. Paul Bemis said that the NRLA has a meeting room upstairs that they use for board meetings we could look into that. Vincent Paul Migliore said that we may be able to use the schools for meetings. Les Dion said that we need to have a consistent space for meetings. Paul Bemis mentioned that we should check on the bank building first.

**Public Comments:**

None

Bill Dowey asked for a motion to close the meeting.

Bruce Dorner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Les Dion. The motion passed **5 in favor – 0 opposed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vogan