

## **Bristol Economic Development Committee**

**March 21, 2018**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Present: Carolyn Shulman, Bruce Dorner, Bill Dowey, Nik Coates, Liz Kelly (left at 7:15 pm), Vincent Paul Migliore (arrived at 7:17 pm), Ed Mendelbaum

We were unable to officially open the meeting until 7:17 pm. We discussed the following until that time. We skipped to the Planner Update so that Liz could leave.

#### **PLANNER UPDATE**

Creative Economy Conference – “What Can Towns Do?”: Liz will be attending this conference. Liz reports that there is potential for an affiliation. She will put together a report for the committee after attending.

UNH Enhance Downtown Vibrancy Bristol as a trial. Bill reported that this group wants to come to Town. They have set 4/12 to meet and he would like us to be there. Nik will get us the time.

Map & Kiosk Project: Liz reported that the Select Board has agreed to let NLRA build a kiosk (that the Town will install). The middle panel will have the recreation map. NLRA and the Town will each have a panel. There is not timeline yet.

PSU: Liz will be meeting with them on our economic development work and how to get a class involved. Carolyn asked her to get info on the PSU partnership with Waterville Valley. Plan NH Economic Development Workshop and “Density Done Well” workshop.

Liz has been reviewing our Master Plan and they are working on updating the vision portion and will be working on the other portions. She is making a list and timeline on updating the other areas and creating an Economic Development chapter. She feels that we can do this in-house. Nik shared potential goals for this and would like us to add an energy chapter.

Jeff Sewake proposed a project that they could do for free. They would pilot a project to link the downtown community with rails and trails. They would work with us to assess the downtown and trails. They will present a final report after the 6 months process. Nik suggested we think about adopting an RSA78.81 (Property Tax Reduction) that allows new businesses tax credits for up to ten years. Laconia and Belmont are looking at this and it is something that the town would need to adopt. Liz suggests getting the ERZ & 79 E info on the Economic Development website. Ed offered to identify businesses that these type of incentives would be attractive to.

***At 7:17 pm Bill called the meeting to order.***

Meeting Discussion: Bill asked if we should begin to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly meeting. Vincent said that he thinks that requiring a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting would be good if it means that the sub-committee would do their work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and make the main meeting more productive. He also suggests we reduce the number that represents a quorum. Bruce said that we have lots of ideas but lack a delivery mechanism as we need someone with time to be working on the detail work. Vincent suggests a Chair and Vice-Chair for each sub-committee. Bruce suggests we form an Economic Development Advisory Group that provides input to this group. Carolyn suggests a closed FB group that included all businesses.

Ed asked if Liz could see if PSU has an intern that might be able to do some of the leg work. He said he would be willing to give some funding towards this goal. Vincent suggests we invite local businesses to come to EDC meeting and tell us about why they are here and what they want to see.

The pros & cons of sub-committee (or Advisory Committee) were discussed. We need to identify what sub-committees we need and then start filling the slots for Chair & Vice-Chair.

Fiber related conferences/grants: The grant opportunities will be addressed in April as funding from the town is contingent on grant funding. Carolyn has gathered grant info on how to find grants specific to what are needs are.

Bill said that we need to have a second meeting in April (one being the 4/12 meeting) and we will have our normal meeting on 4/18. On 4/18 we will review the work plan and divide duties/committees. Les suggested we get articles in the paper. We can do a 'Highlight on Business'.

New Member Applications: We have received two applications for new members to the Committee. No decisions have been made as we will wait for a meeting that Janet is in attendance.

February Minutes: The February minutes were reviewed. ***Bruce Dorner moved to accept the minutes. Carolyn Shulman seconded and the motion passed 5-0-0.***

Cell Carriers: Bill reports that we are meeting with AT&T on April 4 at 9 am. The PD & FD will be there and all are welcome to attend. The focus will be on what they can do for us. Nik said Verizon has been told by Pete Paladino (White Mountain IT) that we are not building the fiber for them and that they will need to deal with First Light. Bill would like to see this conversation had at a higher level than the engineers. Nik suggests that they may need to meet with Pete again. Bill asked to have Pete document the conversations that he has had.

Plan NH Conference: Bruce summarized his notes from this conference. He said that NH is in trouble and Bristol has not got the best further education rates. He reported that Amy Yeakel from NRHS was a presenter and they are doing great collaboration with FNOK. He has four recommendations:

- Invite Amy Yeakel (Extended Learning Opportunities Coordinator) to one of our meetings to get an understanding of what her students seek and how we might help make connections between the School District and the business community.
- It's all about money. Perhaps we should meet with the business development officers at the local banks, TD & FSB. They have a relationship with most of the businesses in town and might be able to help us define what additional and new businesses might be beneficial to Bristol.
- Monitor progress with the new affordable housing project under construction and meet with the owner/developer to discuss how they plan on filling the units and how we might help integrate them into the community.
- Continue with our efforts to work with the other Boards and Committees in town to define our collective goals and objectives as to what Bristol should become as we move forward.

***Carolyn Shulman moved to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Bruce Dorner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***