

Economic Development Committee  
January 15, 2020  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:**

Chair Bill Dowey, Vice Chair Bruce Dorner, Paul Barnett, Paul Bemis, Wayne Anderson, Carolyn Shulman, Vincent Paul Migliore, and Nancy Spears (late).

**Others Present:**

Melissa Levy, USDA/REDI Consultant (video conference call)

**Absent:**

Select Board Chair Les Dion

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Dowey called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve November 20, 2019 minutes by Mr. Dorner, seconded by Mr. Bemis. Motion passed 6-0-2.

**USDA/REDI Presentation**

Ms. Levy reviewed her PowerPoint presentation with the committee. She discussed the Eight Forms of Community Capital and the Value Chain built up of three main engaging partners. Discussion followed regarding including art, technology, and STEM programs into local town events to attract more people to visit, shop, dine, and participate in events in Bristol. More discussion followed on communication to local artists and adding artistry into events such as the local marathon.

**Correspondence & Old Business:**

Mr. Dowey updated the committee on the Fiber Project and Sewer Project. Discussions with Eversource to add fiber to the poles throughout the town have brought the discussion to Consolidated Communications who have asked that Bristol take out an insurance policy of five million dollars at \$30,000 per year. There are 18 towns in NH looking to add fiber to their poles and County Action is getting together to devise a strategy to accomplish the Fiber Project. Bristol has the opportunity to take out a \$17 million USDA loan and is also looking to received \$7 million through the Federal EDA. A meeting with DOT was held regarding the redo and extension of Lake Street, set for 2027. DOT determined that if the preliminary design is payed for up front, DOT will bring the Lake Street project forward on the same time line of the fiber distribution.

**New Business:**

Mr. Dowey updated the committee on communications with Plymouth State University. Mr. Coates is still trying to get PSU to come to an agreement on recruiting students for internships. This would help to increase skill sets and workforce for all parties involved. Mr. Dowey also discussed creating Warrant Articles for the six EV charging stations that will be located at Town Hall, Minot Sleeper Library, Cummings Beach, the Town Square, And Kelley Park. There will be a fee to use the charging unit. The cost for each of the stations is estimated at \$1,500. Mr. Coates has applied for a grant from the USDA Community Facilities Program which would cover 55% of the cost.

Mr. Bemis updated the committee on the Workforce Development and Energy Committee. He applied and was awarded an additional \$10.5k in funding through the Department of Education for the robotics team and competition. He is also working with a local farm for solar array designs and greenhouse ideas. The Energy Committee is working with the Town's legal counsel to prepare a Warrant Article for the Town Meeting in March where a vote will take place for the Power Project. He is meeting with other facilities in NH for more solar information and designs.

**Member Comments/Select Board Comments & Staff Comments:**

Mr. Dorner reminded the committee of the upcoming forums at the library and that he was asked to be a moderator at those forums. Also, that the new Town seal has been signed off on and the EDC website will be the testing site for the new seal and letterhead.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Dorner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm, second by Ms. Spears. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton