

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2019**

Meeting was called to order at 6:02PM by Mr. Dowey. In attendance were Mr. Dowey, Mr. Dorner, Mr. Barnett, Mr. Anderson, and Ms. Spears. Ms. Shulman arrive at 6:16PM. Also in attendance was Les Dion.

Minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Upon Motion by Mr. Dorner and second by Mr. Barnett it was VOTED to accept 3 in favor, 0 in opposition, and two abstentions. Motion passed.

Mr. Dowey opened a discussion about goals for the ensuing year. He noted that the EDC has requested a \$10,000 budget allocation from the Town. Mr. Anderson noted that this will require a warrant article for the Town Meeting and he will work with Mr. Dowey to address that item. Further discussions between Mr. Dowey and the Select Board will continue regarding budget and Mr. Dowey renewed his request that if any EDC projects will require funding we should get that data to him as soon as possible.

Ms. Spears noted that she will continue her efforts to build a greater sense of community within the Central Square businesses by holding pot luck dinners on a monthly basis and will contact Mr. Mandelbaum about using the store-front he has rented in the area as a neutral location for these gatherings. She noted the need for public bathroom facilities in the Central Square area. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Dion took note of this issue and will consider further in their roles on the Select Board.

Ms. Spears noted that with the store-front availability we might be able to find senior volunteers to staff the facility during the summer season to help visitors to our community. She will also inquire among the business community as to “branding” ideas for Bristol.

Mr. Barnett discussed the business incubator concept in further detail and notes that there is significant work to be done before this concept is ready for general public discussion. He will continue to meet with Mr. Coates to work on further substantive steps. As to the use of the new town administration building, they have met with the architect and have some preliminary ideas as to fit-out for the space. Mr. Barnett shared the sketch with the members. Given the Federal Government shutdown, the grant application is delayed with no ideas as to when it will be reviewed. Clearly, this presents an additional challenge to moving the project forward. Alternatives are being considered including private funding with individual or several investors. Mr. Barnett outlined the complications that might arise if multiple investors are used. Further work will continue and he will update the EDC at the next meeting. Mr. Barnett suggests that formation of a legal entity of an Economic Development Corporation should be explored and that the current Bristol EDC would likely become the Board of Directors for the new Corporation.

Mr. Dowey suggested that Mr. Barnett might get further assistance by reaching out to our contacts at the State level and he will provide that information to facilitate communication.

Mr. Dowey next discussed the Master Plan for the Town. There is great need to address the projects and programs under development by the EDC in the Master Plan. Mr. Dowey requested the assistance of Mr. Anderson in the project and the two of them agreed to meet with the proper Town officials to continue work on that vital project.

Mr. Dowey next requested Mr. Dorner to discuss the goals he has set for the Workforce Development Task Force. Mr. Dorner noted that they had been submitted previously, but omitted from tonight's agenda. They will be included for the next meeting. Mr. Dowey requested that the goals include dates and timelines as may be feasible and Mr. Dorner agreed to update those items. Mr. Dorner noted that he will work with Mr. Barnett as Mr. Barnett has researched the types of businesses that we should be considering as most suitable for the character and tone of Bristol.

Mr. Dowey updated the Committee on the First Robotics project at the high school. Twelve students are participating. Ms. Shulman will work on an article about this project and the support by local business of both personnel and funding. Discussion was held about further topics suitable for articles and Ms. Shulman will take all ideas under consideration.

Mr. Dowey updated the meeting on the broadband initiative. Only one response has been received to the RFP. There may be a need to re-bid the project. They are still working on some of the components of the project and further consideration will be given to clarification to certain "ownership" issues that have arisen.

Given the substantive discussions of the evening, Mr. Anderson offered a summary of certain projects he suggests as being foremost in consideration during the year as there are limited resources to allocate among all the worthwhile ideas.

Upon Motion by Mr. Dorner, and second by Mr. Anderson, it was VOTED to adjourn at 7:35PM.

Recorded by
Bruce Dorner
Secretary *Pro Tem*