

Economic Development Committee
February 17th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Bill Dowey, Vice Chair Bruce Dorner, Paul Bemis, Carolyn Shulman, and Nancy Spears, Hector Hsu, Britta Hallberg, and Jamie Bemis.

Absent

Wayne Anderson

Call to Order:

With all members remote and Ms. Wharton in the town office, Mr. Dowey called the “zoom” based meeting to order at 6:07pm.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Approval of January Minutes by Mr. Dorner, seconded by Mrs. Spears. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Old Business/ New Business:

Mrs. Hallberg stated that on January 27th, there was a Adapt Your Marketing webinar that had 12 people signed up, 7 out of those 12 showed. The content of the webinar might have been unrelatable for Newfound Independence as they are more seasonal. Most groups stayed on after the meeting to brainstorm on future ways of bridging and building on the relationships with Newfound Independence.

Mr. Dorner agreed with Mrs. Hallberg’s statements. Mr. Dorner then discussed the new website design is up and running. Members can now click on EDC section of the website and the two new committee members can be seen listed on the section. Along with the updated EDC section, there is a button on the bottom of the page that says Business with Bristol, new logos and seal, updated history of the Town; all part of the new Bristol Marketing Program.

Mr. Dowey asked Mr. Bemis to speak on behalf of the Affordable Housing initiative. Mr. Bemis stated there is a lot of good feedback from the Select Board about the approach and to apply for the grant as long as the focus remains the same. Ms. Jamie Bemis stated that Mr. Bemis is well positioned to represent the sub committee presentation further to the Select Board.

Mr. Dowey and Mr. Hsu attended a tutorial universal robotics seminar which left both impressed. Mr. Dowey stated that he was surprised by the common use of the end tools attached to the robots supplied by many sub-contractors or contractors. Mr. Hsu stated it felt more like a sales pitch for the product. The goal would be to get Freudenburg on board as the Town would be running the robotics program which may be problematic.

Mr. Dowey discussed the Land Water Fund, under past admin would be National Parks Service which provided most of the funding for Bristol Falls Parl. The funding as been rescinded until further notice. The DOT has a grant for 3.7 million and the EDC has already submitted a letter of request for 1 million.

Discussion by members regarding Master Plan updated and weather or not to reach out to Melissa as a resource. Mr. Dowey stated that she produced the surveys and was impressed by the work and input received.

Mr. Bemis discussed having three out of the five Select Board Members' support to initiate the Solar Array Project next year. More information to come regarding the project.

Member Comments/Select Board Comments & Staff Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:53pm by Mr. Bemis, seconded by Mr. Dorner. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Wharton