

## **Bristol Economic Development Committee**

**August 2, 2017**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Present: Liz Kelly (Town Planner), Janet Cavanagh, Bill Dowey, Nik Coates, Bruce Dorner, Carolyn Schulman, Paul Bemis, Les Dion

Recitation of Mission Statement: Bill recited the mission statement to open the meeting.

Minutes: There were no minutes to be approved.

Membership Expansion: Bill introduced Paul Bemis who may be interested in joining the group.

### **Work Sessions**

Boating Update: Bruce reports that Andrew Vellieux has followed up and a Newfound Lake Sailing Club has been formed. The races are held every Sunday from 12-3 pm at the north end of the lake. This is not an NLRA sponsored activity.

PSU: Bruce reports that he was asked to speak with Jessica Morel who is in charge of internships/placements at PSU. They discussed potential collaborations as follows:

- Internships – up to 10 hours per week
- Type of focused (Capstone) projects - These are student led and done by individual students.
- Class Project – We would need to develop a problem area that we want to work on and we would work with a Professor and his class to accomplish this.

Bruce said he was leaning towards the class project and something like the parking issue. We would not have to supply insurance, benefits or pay. Nik said that they did this with a Northern NH town with great success. He said we definitely have needs but no desk space right now. We may be ready by next year for that type of option.

Paul reports that he has been doing this with UNH for a number of years with good outcomes. Nik suggested that one project in our work plan is identifying current entrepreneurs in the Bristol area and connect them to resources. This could be a capstone project. The Library has offered to make some space available for this. Bill said that he and Nik met with IT at the SAU and that they are trying to set up a meeting with PSU to talk about IT within our I93 corridor. This might be a potential project. The school would only work with us if we upgraded our outdated system though. Nik would like to have us work with Dartmouth as well and access their engineering students. Bruce offered that there is no reason not to follow two paths.

Bruce reports that he and Nik have been talking about our web and social media presence. He suggests we check out Laconia's website as they recently upgraded. If we were to do an RFP for this we would include website, purchasing advice, etc.

We have had some info from Matt Lebarre, a summer resident. He has been a summer resident for many years and does strategic planning for organizations. He understands what we are going through and has also identified a good portion of the same issues that this group has. Matt's interest is more geared towards the tourism piece. One of his ideas was some type of Christmas event. Bruce will ask him if he would be interested in working with us.

Marketing Bristol: Carolyn has been working to improve some of our maps. She has found that there is quite a cost associated to getting decent, current mapping done. She has produced a Restaurant Guide sheet that will work well at the info booth. There are many walking/hiking trails and recreational resources in our region. Bruce suggests a downtown walking map with historic markers as well. Liz will work with Clay Dingman on the trail map as he has extensive experience with this. Carolyn will start to compile a list of trails with descriptions. We need to get all trail descriptions to Liz. The timeframe to complete this is year end. Once they identify the resources with info Carolyn can produce wording that will be appealing. The email for Liz is [planner@townofbristolnh.org](mailto:planner@townofbristolnh.org).

Market Analysis/Business Profile: Janet reports that Jeff Sewake of the Grafton County Economic Development is ready to come to a meeting. Janet is going to go and talk to Ragged Mountain and the Inns/Restaurants to see about doing a special rate for one specific weekend in the winter. She has been doing market research with the businesses in town on their needs/wants/ideas. Parking and cell phone coverage are the biggest issues.

Nik proposes an event that would include local businesses/FNOK/HS getting together to discuss potential ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities). Bill said that Plymouth offers four vocational opportunities and Laconia offers 12. The District is trying to align to have both options and help kids receive LRCC credits. FNOK is willing to work with students to get training/education to help build their future workforce.

Speed Dating Event Update: PSU, LRCC, Shasheen Technical School, Webster Valve, NH Ball Bearing would all be potential players to help work on streamlining the path for students to careers in their companies. No date has been set for this but it may be in the next couple of weeks. Paul is willing to help with this wherever needed. Paul reports that he has been a speaker at High Schools on careers and he would be happy to do this at Newfound.

Land Use Regs: Nik reports that he believed that the Planning Board was open to having the EDC make some recommendations about some of the zoning regs that we feel need to be looked at to become more attractive to businesses. He thinks that we should do a full regulatory audit. These take about a year to do. We could make some simple adjustments now. Examples that have come up to be looked at are:

- Brew Pubs
- Micro-distillery
- Hotel
- Gym/Health Club

Meeting Schedule: It was agreed that we would meet the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays. The next meetings are 9/6 and 9/20.

***Bruce Dorner moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Carolyn Schulman seconded and the motion passed.***

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Leslie Dion***