

Minutes

Bristol Economic Development Committee

September 18, 2017

Members Present: William Dowey, Vincent Paul Migliore, Bruce Dorner, Janet Cavanagh, Les Dion.

Members Absent: Rick Alpers, Carolyn Shulman.

Others Present: Nik Coates, Paul Bemis.

Chairman Dowey called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Minutes:

Mr. Dorner made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2017, seconded by Ms. Cavanagh. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 5-0-0.

Project Updates:

Fitness Center in Lake District

In the letter drafted to the Planning Board on behalf of the Economic Development Committee regarding proposed zoning amendments, it was recommended that the Planning Board add health club/fitness center to the list of permitted uses in the Lake District. After conducting some additional research, Planner Liz Kelly found that the Bristol Zoning Ordinance currently has a definition for "Club" which refers to "a private club or lodge including a YMCA or similar facility operating for members or employees only." Clubs are currently permitted in the Village Commercial District, the Downtown Commercial District, and the Lake District. Health clubs, fitness centers, and gyms fall within the bounds of this definition.

Distillery

Ms. Kelly is still doing research and will have recommendations for the Planning Board in September or October.

Boutique Hotel

The Planning Board may not want to take this on this year. Mr. Coates stated that Mr. Alpers and he discussed that if this was the case, would there be a resident that would submit a petition signature petition for a warrant article. Mr. Dorner suggested the EDC consider presenting idea with a plan and present to a wider audience. Proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance first go the Planning Board for their consideration and action/inaction. Due to time constraints this year, it might be best to preparing a presentation, work on it through the spring and bring up at Town Meeting in 2019.

Attempts to plan a joint meeting with the chairs of the Select Board, Planning Board, Economic Development Committee and Historic District Commission haven't come together yet. Mr. Dowey suggested reaching out to chairs again to plan the meeting. Mr. Coates said he would work on that. This meeting would be a good opportunity to discuss the boutique hotel concepts. Mr. Dowey suggested that the EDC attend the upcoming PB meeting to see where they are re: boutique hotel. Mr. Coates stated one of the reasons for hiring Ms. Kelly was to be a liaison between EDC and PB so that communication like these could happen. She has already done a great job bridging the committees. Push back from local

lodging owners is to be expected. One reason for the boutique hotel would be to capture revenue in Bristol instead of going to Ashland/Tilton. Mr. Coates suggested having this as a topic of discussion to Geoff Sewake on October 18th. Mr. Dowey will go to PB meeting and report back to the EDC.

Verizon Wireless

Mr. Coates reported there will be boosters in municipal buildings: One at Town Hall/PD, one at the High School and one at Fire Department to cover public safety. He has also requested one to go at the Water/Sewer building. The next step is getting a time frame from Verizon as to when they will come out. Mr. Coates is also continuing the conversation with Verizon about the other projects.

Pemi Trail

Mr. Coates has been in contact with Mike Vignale, Craig Ward and Sean Sweeney who took a look and came up with ideas. Mr. Coates will gather the ideas that they came up with. Mr. Dorner said Nigel Croxon has offered to take aerial video with his drone to compile for a presentation. Getting snowmobilers onboard will be a good support. The Army Corps of Engineers has discussed with the Town the idea of a walking path on phase 2 of the project as a starting point. EDC members said they hope the Army Corps will approve bikes/snowmobiles. The Army Corps concern is flood control. Get underlying resources together. Discussion tabled.

Downtown Parking Committee Report

Mr. Coates is working on the report, which will be presented to the Select Board in October. Some recommendations that will come out include paving Central Street and converting Spring Street into a one way and formalizing the existing parking spaces. There's been a cool response to the idea of widening North Main Street in front of the TTCC to get about another eight parking spaces there. The Police Department is working on getting a quote for an E911 system. The way it works is anyone registered with system will get text re: winter parking bans or other emergencies. The committee discussed purchasing a small lot downtown which would add 20-25 spaces. That could serve as overnight parking for downtown residents. At this time, there may not be changes to the parking ordinance, but the report is still being written. However, the wording of winter parking ban is not clear on the intent and needs to be cleaned up. Ms. Cavanagh discussed that it is unclear where parking is allowed in the winter time. The Downtown Parking Committee discussed having downtown businesses posting parking locations and the ordinance, and asking downtown landlords consider having their tenants sign off an acknowledgment of the parking ordinance when they sign their leases. The Highway Department and SAU are talking about having the Town take over plowing Newfound Road in exchange for the SAU taking over plowing for Bristol Elementary. Ms. Cavanagh said some downtown business owners have expressed interest in the parking issue. Mr. Coates said they should come to the meeting when the report will be presented to the Select Board.

Other

Liz will be working with Plymouth State for ideas on EDC projects. Bruce suggested that he will work with her and Plymouth State as well.

Work Sessions:

Market Analysis

The EDC will have a special meeting on October 12 with UNH Cooperative Extension's Geoff Sewake on this topic.

Fiber RFI

Mr. Coates said he is working with staff to rebuild the town government's IT/Communications infrastructure. As part of that, a Request for Information (RFI) was put together to identify companies that would be interesting in supplying fiber to municipal buildings to develop own network to increase speed, connectivity and security. Mr. Dowe discussed connecting to the fiber that runs up I-93. There will be more information to follow in the coming months.

EDC Member Updates:

Mr. Dowe said NHDOT is reducing lane size from 11ft to 10ft on West Shore Road similar to what was done on Route 3A to Hebron. This project will make it so there is around 4 feet on each side (2 feet black top, 2 feet packed gravel). Newfound Pathways is having a celebratory bike ride going from the Catholic Church to State Park on Saturday Oct 7th at 9am. Lake Street not slated to be done until 2027. There is interest in trying to do something like this on Lake Street so it will mirror West shore Road. Mr. Dowe asked Mr. Coates to discuss this with Highway Superintendent Mark Bucklin. Mr. Coates clarified the procedure that NHDOT follows to decide on projects. Town residents who would like to see this happen on Lake Street should go to the GACIT hearing to help move the Lake Street project up in the Ten Year Plan.

Public Comments:

Ed Mandlebaum said helping Bristol's residents understand that Bristol can be involved in PSU vision. PSU can bring in jobs, bring in money and help lower taxes.

Adjournment:

Mr. Dorner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Migliore. The Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Hewitt