

Bristol Economic Development Committee

November 21, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Rick Alpers, Vincent Migliore, Janet Cavanaugh, Bruce Dorner, Carolyn Schulman, Nik Coates, Les Dion

Minutes: The minutes of October 12th and 18th were tabled.

Verizon/Fiber: Nik reports that he is waiting for specs for fiber connectivity to a building. The ballpark cost from Fairpoint was \$200-\$2,000/month. Metrocast gave us a quote last year of about \$32,000. Verizon is leaning towards First Light. They are the company that did the schools and they have fiber in many locations. They had looked at TD Bank but then suggested the TTCC would be an option.

Pemi Trail: We have received the \$153,000 grant and the pre-construction meeting was held. They discussed getting some work done now but there would be potential cost issues if we have a rough winter. This would mean waiting until July for a low water flow. It was agreed it is best to wait for good weather. There will be a meeting with the Army Corps on Phase 2. Bruce said we have some great video footage from Nigel Croxon.

ERZ Designations: The Select Board was presented with recommendations from the staff to extend the ERZ. We would expand the zone to cover the rest of the Industrial zone. They would like to keep the 2nd zone the same but extend the downtown and also extend the 4th zone to Chandler Street from Hillside Avenue. We apply to the State and if we are approved we can offer tax credits to new employers. We could also leverage our ERZ's for grant funding apps and potential funds for deployment of fiber.

Status Update: There is a zoning ordinance amendment request from Liz. There will be a meeting on the proposed updates. We will leave the boutique hotel alone for now and do a community survey next year.

2018 Budget Request: Nik has a proposed budget. We need to figure out what we are doing on the market analysis plan with our options being Community Profile vs Branding vs Charrette vs Buxton. Geoff Sewake has offered a \$2,500 engagement. We did a website RFP and met with 6 companies. The recommendation was to go with Virtual Town & Schools. Nik said he liked Civic Live. They also met with Figment. They felt that they were not a good fix for website but would be great for branding. The committee recommended a quote from them for this purpose. This would be a first step and it makes sense to do this before the website. What they offer is similar to what Buxton offers but we don't have a number from Buxton yet. Nik has put the \$31,350 in the 2018 budget as a placeholder.

The Committee needs to determine our first steps. Bruce asked why we wouldn't have Geoff Sewake do this. Carolyn said that Figment was very 'big picture' and she was a little uncomfortable with that. Geoff Sewake has suggested using Linking Towns to Trails & Waterways but Nik is not a big fan of this approach. Rick said that he would like to talk to Buxton and get a feel for their costs. He said he sat in

on one of their sessions in San Antonio and they were impressive. They use credit card purchase tracking to get their data.

Bruce suggests we start talking to our employees to see what they want to do with an electronic presence. Nik will get a price from Buxton and we will look into the budget further at another meeting.

We discussed whether we want to do another community profile and charrette. We can apply to Plan NH to do this and could get grant funds to pay for it. Bruce wants to know how we get non-voters to the table. Rick said we could do this during the summer to accommodate these taxpayers.

Rick said that Buxton worked with Caribou, Maine and Derry and asked Nik to reach out to those communities to see what their experience was. It was agreed that we would apply for a Community Profile and Charrette Grant.

2018 Scheduling: Nik will reach out to the Library to see if a Tues/Wed night would be available for meetings after the first of the year.

Janet reports that she spoke with the owner of the lot next to the Mexican Restaurant and that he may be interested in selling. It is currently assessed at \$23,000. This lot could accommodate about 20 parking spaces tiered. Mike Vignale has checked it out and it could be a good alternative. Nik thought it could be used for snow emergencies for all apartment dwellers in the downtown or as a spot for business owners to park. Bruce suggests we may want to consider charging for spaces to recoup costs. Rick said we need to find out what he is asking for it and if he wants to sell it.

Bruce said that the State is in an uproar over what provider to go with for cell service. There is a lot of politics involved. We will have to wait to see what the State does.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Dion