



Town of Bristol
5 School Street
Bristol, NH 03222
—
townofbristolnh.org
(603) 744-3354

April 14, 2020

Dear Bristol and Newfound Community,

Despite what you have read in recent news stories, do not let one person's perceptions define you or our community.

Bristol will always be a strong community. It has, is, and will persevere.

How do I know? We have the strongest community spirit of any town, city, or place I know. It is in the hundreds of silver linings I have seen through the challenging time that COVID-19 has presented us. There are far too many of these positives things and people to mention, and I apologize in advance if you aren't mentioned. It's a long list.

Cathy Redman and the Tapply-Thompson Community Center have a volunteer army of 70+ people food and supply shopping for neighbors and strangers alike. They and you are keeping people safe, healthy, and connected in our community.

Steve Hanser has been purchasing gift certificates from businesses, raffling them off, and donating proceeds to local nonprofits in the community. That's a double win of supporting locally-owned businesses and the organizations that support us all.

Bristol Community Services continues to provide people in need with reasonably priced clothing, food, and household items. The Newfound Area Nurses Association continues to do everything they can to make sure those who most need it are staying healthy and well.

Our local businesses, each and every one, have never seen a challenge like they are seeing now. It's a hard road and, no doubt, scary. But I hear no one saying, "Poor me." They have stood up to the challenge, adapted wherever possible, and finding ways to survive. It's not easy, nor will it be. It takes a heart of lion to do what they do, but they are doing it in any way they can. Economic Development Committee Vice Chair Bruce Dorner has been hosting a series of videos with business owners such as Henry Whipple House Owner Sandra Heaney and Hard Surface Solutions Owner Jason Briand to offer fellow business owners advice and support on how to navigate the federal programs that are not easy to understand or navigate.

Our Town staff continues to work every day to provide you the services that you expect. Our Police and Fire Departments put themselves in harm's way every day. Our Highway and Water/Sewer Departments are out taking care of the roads, bridges, pipes, and water mains. Our Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Land Use/Assessing, Finance, and Human Services staff are working every day to make sure you can register your car, get married, get permits in a timely fashion, access support services and so on



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despite the challenges of an office that has been turned inside out. The Minot-Sleeper Library staff has been running story-times for children—including many from our heroes at the Fire Department—and virtual coffee and conversations to help people stay connected and is looking at ways to support people who need help with resume writing and unemployment applications. Our committees have not stopped working, and have adapted to serve their town admirably in order to continue the Town's business.

You have neighbors giving each other hope with teddy bears in the windows. You have the Downtown Decorating Committee getting the Spring banners up to give our town some color (despite what a certain newspaper would lead you to believe.)

Bristol isn't just about its COVID-19 response. COVID-19 has just highlighted the best of who we are.

Freudenberg has had its challenges as the economy has swayed in the past, and, yes, it is facing a challenging time now. I have spoken to staff there and there is a plan to bring employees back. The structure of the economy was strong before this screaming downturn. There have been and will be more bumps, but the economy will come back. Freudenberg is well-positioned as a company and it has smart people managing it at the corporate and local level. Employees who have been furloughed: I hear your concern. Please be in touch with me if you need help navigating this.

Spring is almost here, and we can look forward to the beautiful displays that the Downtown Decorating Committee and Pasquaney Garden Club will put together for us. The new Pemi Trail/Bristol Falls Park will have its ribbon cutting this Summer. We had strong business growth before COVID-19 hit. I have had a lot of positive conversations with businesses interested in Bristol and we look forward to continuing those conversations as this gets behind us. Soon we expect to be working on the fiber optic cable project to bring more internet options to town. Swim With A Mission will be back again this Summer. While sure to be different due to the restrictions COVID-19 will place on us, the Spring, Summer and Fall will be here and will offer us the opportunity see the sun, sit by the lake, and just enjoy.

Whenever I travel around the state for meetings, I proudly tell them I work for the Town of Bristol. Many are envious of everything we have and what we are doing as a community. They should be.

Bristol was known for its superior bricks. Just like the bricks that built our and other towns, we are strong, sturdy, resilient, unmovable.

We are all in this together, Bristol and Newfound Strong.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Coates (Nik), Town Administrator