

Bristol CORE
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2017

I. Call to order – 9:30am

II. Attendance: Ian Albinson (Executive Director), Carolyn Ashby (Chair), Eric Forand (Ex-Officio member)

III. Meeting Minutes: there were none to approve

IV. Open issues: there were no open issues

V. New Business:

The District boundary amendment was approved at the Downtown board meeting. Eric made a quick presentation and the Board voted unanimously to approve it. The District now includes the Bristol Co-Housing Village and exclude the private residence as the corner of Mountain and Main Street. Peg Kamens was notified and she will now be applying for tax credits to do work on the Peake House.

Eric attended an economic development workshop sponsored by VLCT. There were presentations on the redevelopment of St. Albans and Bennington. In both cases the Town had to be the leader in the process getting State and private support. Both towns started by directly purchasing properties in their downtown. There was a presentation on Artesian Field in Windsor. This is a project where the idea is to “see them make it”. There is a brewery, spirit maker, cheese maker and jam maker. They all produce their product but the park as a whole sees about 125,000 visitors a year. Eric will send out a link with all of the handouts and presentations.

Eric met with Kevin Harper in regards to the Stoney Hill Project. Kevin is currently tied up with his commercial bakery however he does want to start the process again on the project. He is thinking that he will build the residential portion first as that will be the easiest to fill. He is unsure of how the ownership of the residence will be set up, he is not interested in being a residential landlord however is aware that the property will be the first thing you see as you pull into the business park so he is leery of just selling them off. He and Eric will be working together to produce a marketing flyer for the project using the master plan that was completed late last year. Eric hopes to integrate the marketing of the project with an economic development page on the Town website. There was discussion about the housing needs of Bristol and how the best way to get builders to satisfy those needs.

The grant for the Main Street sidewalk improvements has been submitted and we are waiting for the awards to be announced.

The makeup of the CORE board was discussed. Carolyn stated she thought that the bylaws required 5-7 members, she felt that the members should be by project group, meaning the person in charge of Pocock or the person in charge of chocolate walk for example. She thought the Board should meet quarterly, this way the person working on the project would still attend two meetings at least when their project was not in full swing to be able to discuss the broader picture for the group. Eric discussed how it will be important for the Board members to participate and be a part of the larger discussion about what CORE should and can do for the Town. He felt we need 5 members to have a solid board and that they do not necessarily have to be the owner of a downtown business.

The structure of CORE was discussed. Several ideas were presented including possibly bringing the executive director and the budget in house and possibly even have them work a couple hours a week out of the Town office. What and how many projects the group can take on will need to be addressed once the Board is built out. The idea of a marketing group, historic preservation group, economic development group and organization group still made sense to those present.

The town trash receptacles were discussed. Ian has seen them overflowing several times and wants to see if there is something we can do about it. He feels that it is the towns responsibility to have them and that pulling them from the park had not been a good idea. Eric stated he had gone around to the 8 cans and emptied and inspected the contents. It seem to him that a lot of household waste and trash from people cleaning out their cars was in the can. The group discussed contacting the property owners on Main Street to have them remind their tenants that they should not be putting trash in the cans. The town office had also confirmed the schedule of trash pick to make sure it is being adhered to. Ian and Eric will try to see if there is a pattern to which cans overflow and what may be causing it.

The winter access behind Main Street on Prince Lane was discussed. There have been some complaints from store owners about lack of shoveling and the snowplow piling snow on the walk. It was thought that a notice to property owners to remind their tenants that they need to shovel in the back in the same way they have to shovel the front. It was also discussed that a majority of the time the town plow cannot get down the sidewalk. It was discussed adding curbs to keep the cars away from the sidewalk, however a funding source would be required. Also Pomerleau's should be contacted about piling snow on sidewalk. As it is the end of the season the hope was these could be resolved before the start of next winter.

VI. The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2017 at the town office

VII. Adjournment 11:30am

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric J Forand