

# BRISTOL CORE

P.O. Box 413, Bristol, VT 05443 • (802) 453-7378 • info@bristolcore.org • discoverbristolvt.com

Bristol's Main Street and town green, historic buildings and local enterprises, and, above all, the unique character of its people are the **core** of our **CO**mmunity – physically, culturally and economically. Bristol CORE's mission, and passion, is to bring people together to rally the **RE**sources to keep that core strong, to celebrate its history and to plan for its future.

In 2016, Bristol CORE successfully reintroduced projects on hiatus in 2015 -- both *Pocock Rocks* and the Main Street Flower baskets, added an annual community appeal to our fundraising strategy (THANK YOU for helping us reach our \$5,000 goal!), and added new events and new dimensions to ongoing projects.

## Volunteer Teams

### **Promotions (Events and Marketing)**

- Supported the first annual **Spring into Art** event in April, in collaboration with ARTSight Studios and Galleries. Look for this event to return and expand in 2017.
- The **Pocock Rocks Music Festival & Street Fair** returned in June with an expanded music line-up, including many new performers, more vendors, additional activities and a new street layout that encouraged better attendee movement on Main Street.
- Brought local business resources, marketing materials, and extra pizzazz to Main Street for the November 26th **Small Business Saturday** event, with the American Express Neighborhood Champion program.
- Expanded the number of multi-vendor venues for the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Chocolate Walk** on December 2nd. In addition to Tandem, the Bristol Bakery, lu.lu, and Vermont Tree Goods hosted additional vendors. For the second year in a row, the event set records for business participation, community turnout, chocolate consumed, dollars spent locally and holiday festivity! Local businesses report spectacular sales during that evening. Many thanks to Kelly Hamshaw and her UVM Local Community Initiatives class for their assistance, particularly during the event.
- Co-hosted a new holiday season event with Tandem on December 23rd - **Lumen: Bristol's Celebration of Fire & Light**. Several hundred people came downtown to enjoy a fire performance on the green, followed by a lantern procession to the other end of Main Street to enjoy good company and good food around the fire pits set up in Artists Alley and the Tandem alleyway. Almost Home, lu.lu, Tandem, The Hindquarter, and Five Town Friends of the Arts provided a variety of food and beverage to warm-up attendees. Many thanks to the Bristol Fire Department for providing fire oversight. Look for expanded activities next year following this incredibly well-received first outing.

Team Members: Aidan Lenihan, Alicia Standridge, Amy Piasecki, Carolyn Ashby, Doug Harper, Ian Albinson, Jess Messer, Kate Dubenetsky, Kate La Riviere, Kevin Hanson, Laura Mack, Lindsay Vincelette, Melissa Hernandez, Reed Prescott, Roberta Sinnock, and Kelly Hamshaw and students from her fall Local Community Initiatives class at UVM

### **Collaborations (Town & Community Relationships)**

- Successfully completed the **State Downtown Designation Renewal process** in June 2016 which involved submitting a report of accomplishments over the prior five years and a statement of goals for the coming five years, demonstrating town compliance with requirements, gathering support from key community members, and a presentation before the State Downtown Board.
- Attended statewide **Downtown Retreat** in September to learn about best practices & new ideas, access state resources, and make useful connections for future opportunities.
- Partnered with the **Local Community Initiatives Capstone Class**, taught by Bristol resident Kelly Hamshaw, in the Department of Community Development & Applied Economics at UVM. The fall semester class had teams of students tackling three projects with CORE: *Chocolate Walk*, *Small Business Saturday* and *Trails Research*.
- Continued conversations with the Planning Commission, and regularly attended Town staff meetings.

Team Members: Ian Albinson, Carolyn Ashby, Eric Forand, Kelly Hamshaw

### **Design (Historic Preservation & Public Improvements)**

- The **Main Street Flower Basket Project** returned and expanded this year to include all lamp posts on Main Street and Prince Lane. The cost of planting and maintaining this year's flower baskets was fully sponsored by a variety of generous local businesses and individuals, all acknowledged publicly with a tasteful plaque on each lamp post. Thanks to Rocky Dale Gardens for the planting and to Jody Taparuskas and Hannah Zimmer for the watering and maintenance.
- **Yearly Winter Decorating of Main Street**, including holiday lights on lamp posts and bandstand, and garland on the bandstand, Howden Hall, and Holley Hall. Thanks to Bob Spofford for greens and special thanks to Tom Wallace and crew, Therese Kirby, and Darla Senecal who ensured the greens got up when our regular elves were unavailable.

Team Members: Ian Albinson, Carol Wells

### **Economic Development**

- Held regular conversations with downtown and local business owners.
- Continued regular checkins with Co-housing community developers Jim Mendell and Peg Kamens.
- Worked with two community members on RFPs for the old fire station, one of which included a proposal from Bristol CORE to convert the main building into a co-working/maker space called "The Station".
- Arranged for a meeting with state, town and planning commission members to discuss potential for Neighborhood Development Area designation. This program helps towns "to plan for new and infill housing in the area within walking distance of its designated downtown and incentivizes needed housing, further supporting the commercial establishments in the designated centers."

Team Members: Ian Albinson, Carolyn Ashby, Danelle Birong, Amy Piasecki, Reed Prescott, Carol Wells

Our hardworking Executive Director is only able to pound the pavement 10 hours/week, and the appropriation from the town covers only a portion of the budget. All other funds and person-power to make the projects pictured below – and those in the future – come from the community. We are currently seeking new Board and Team members, and welcome your involvement, your enthusiasm and your financial support.

The Town's funding of Bristol CORE makes it possible for the non-profit to exist. We are truly grateful for the support of the Town Administrator, the Selectboard, and the taxpayers in our amazing community.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bristol CORE Board of Directors*

Carolyn Ashby, Chair | Amy Piasecki, Secretary  
Ex-officio: Ian Albinson, Executive Director | Therese Kirby, Town Administrator