

BRISTOL CORE

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Bristol's local downtown organization Bristol CORE is an essential part of our active and engaged community.

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 community – physically, culturally and economically. Bristol CORE's mission, and passion, is to bring people together to rally the resources to keep that core strong, to celebrate its history and to plan for its future.

In 2017, Bristol CORE had incredible success with Signature Events like *Pocock Rocks*, *Chocolate Walk* and the *Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light*, added new Main Street events to its calendar, partnered with local organizations on a range of projects and supported local businesses with event promotions.

Promotions (Events and Marketing)

- The **Pocock Rocks Music Festival & Street Fair** returned in June with an expanded music line-up, including many new performers, more vendors, and additional activities.
- Brought local business resources, marketing materials, and extra pizzazz to Main Street for November 25th's **Small Business Saturday** event, with the American Express Neighborhood Champion program.
- Expanded the number of multi-vendor venues for the **10th Annual Chocolate Walk** on December 1st. In addition to Tandem, the Bristol Bakery, lu.lu, and Vermont Tree Goods hosted additional vendors. For the third year in a row, the event set records for business participation, community turnout, chocolate consumed, dollars spent locally and holiday festivity!
- Added a new, free, music-focused event in mid-December entitled **Eat, Drink and Be Merry**, encouraging people to shop, and take in local well-known musical acts and refreshments at three unique locations on Main Street. Our thanks to Recycled Reading of Vermont Books & Instruments and ARTSight Studios.
- Co-hosted the the **2nd Annual Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light** with Tandem on December 22nd. Several hundred people came out in very snowy weather to enjoy a lantern making workshop followed by an amazing fire performance on the green. A procession to the far end of Main Street led to good company and good food around the fire pits set up by Tandem and Vermont Tree Goods. Mary's Restaurant, Hogback Mountain Brewing, lu.lu, Tandem, and Full Belly Farm provided a variety of food and beverage to warm-up attendees.

Team Members: Aidan Lenihan, Alicia Standridge, Carolyn Ashby, Doug Harper, Ian Albinson, Jess Messer, Jenny Telling, Kate Dubenetsky, Kevin Hanson, Laura Mack, Melissa Hernandez, and Kelly & Scott Hamshaw

Collaborations (Town & Community Relationships)

- Successfully completed an expansion of Bristol's **State Downtown Designation district** to include the Bristol Village Cohousing development.
- Partnership on the **Bristol Trail Network (BTN)** initiative with the Bristol Recreation Club.
- Attended statewide **Downtown Retreat** in September to learn about best practices & new ideas, access state resources, and make useful connections for future opportunities.
- Collaborated with the Addison County Chamber of Commerce on a **Bristol Town Guide brochure** for distribution throughout Vermont, encouraging shopping, dining, visiting, or relocating to Bristol.
- 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 two projects with CORE: *Main St Makeover* and *Wayfinding Signage Proposal*.
- Continued conversations with the Planning, and Conservation Commissions, and regularly attended Town Selectboard meetings.

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

Design (Historic Preservation & Public Improvements)

- The **Main Street Flower Basket Project** for all lamp posts on Main Street and Prince Lane. 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 Danielle Collette and Aidan Lenihan for the watering and maintenance.
- **Yearly Winter Decorating of Main Street**, including holiday lights on lamp posts, bandstand, and playground, and decorations on the bandstand, Howden Hall, and Holley Hall.

Team Members: Ian Albinson, Carol Wells

Economic Development

- Held regular conversations with downtown and local business owners.
- Continued discussions with local developers on the 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, Carol Wells

The Town of Bristol provides a third of our funding, and we are truly grateful for the support of the Town Administrator, the Selectboard, and the taxpayers in our amazing community.

All remaining funds and person-power to make the projects mentioned above – and those in the future – come from the generous support of local businesses and community members. Donations are critical to Bristol CORE's ability to make projects and events that keep Bristol buzzing.

We are currently seeking new Board members, and welcome your involvement, your enthusiasm and your financial support. Make a tax-deductible contribution at www.bristolcore.org today.

Respectfully submitted,
Bristol CORE Board of Directors

Carolyn Ashby, Chair | Kelly Hamshaw, Board Member
Ex-officio: Ian Albinson, Executive Director | Valerie Capels, Town Administrator