

# BRISTOL CORE

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Bristol's local downtown organization, Bristol CORE, is an essential part of our active and engaged community. Our 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 2018, Bristol CORE had incredible success with Signature Events like *Pocock Rocks*, *Chocolate Walk* and the *Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light*, added new community events to its calendar, partnered with local organizations on a range of projects, and supported local businesses and property owners in the downtown district.

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

- The **Pocock Rocks Music Festival & Street Fair** returned in June with an expanded line-up of new performers, more vendors, and additional activities.
- Celebrated our **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Chocolate Walk** in December. This year the event set records for business participation, community turnout, chocolate consumed, and holiday festivity.
- The music-focused event **Eat, Drink and Be Merry** returned in mid-December, encouraging people to shop, and take in local well-known musical acts and refreshments at five unique locations on Main Street. Co-sponsored with Recycled Reading of Vermont.
- Co-hosted the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light** with Tandem in late December. Over 200 people came out in perfect winter weather to enjoy our lantern making workshop, fire performance on the green, procession down Main Street, and food & drink around the fire pits at Tandem and Vermont Tree Goods.
- Created a weekly Wednesday morning **Open Play at Holley Hall** group for babies, toddlers or preschoolers on the move! Co-sponsored with the Bristol Recreation Department.
- Started a Friday evening film series, in collaboration with Lawrence Memorial Library. **Reel Film Fridays** features traditional 16mm film projection of classic films from the 1930s–1970s and fresh popcorn for all attendees. Films shown this year included *Rear Window*, *Citizen Kane*, *Casablanca*, *King Kong*, *Top Hat*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

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

- Hosted the annual **Historic Preservation and Downtown Conference** in Bristol, in collaboration with the Preservation Trust of Vermont. This all-day conference had author and musician Dar Williams as their keynote speaker, and include presentations of the 2018 Preservation Awards, and afternoon Lightning Talks and Field Sessions that explored the innovative preservation and community work happening in the Bristol area and beyond.
- Partnered as a member of the **Community Center Steering Committee** to work with the Town of Bristol on exploring the feasibility for centralizing the Recreation Department, Clay Studio, and Teen Center in a new five-town area Bristol-located community center.
- Continued our partnership with the **Local Community Initiatives Capstone Class**, taught by Bristol resident, and Bristol CORE board member, Kelly Hamshaw, in the Department of Community Development & Applied Economics at UVM. This year the class was tasked to develop promotional materials to share with prospective entrepreneurs, new residents, and

others, about what Bristol has to offer in terms of economic opportunity.

- Partnership on the **Bristol Trail Network (BTN)** initiative with the Bristol Recreation Club.
- Continued conversations with the Planning, Energy, and Conservation Commissions, and regularly attended Town Selectboard meetings.

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

- The **Main Street Flower Basket Project** for all lamp posts on Main Street and Prince Lane 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 and Aidan Lenihan for the planting, watering and maintenance.
- Exploring the potential of the town applying to the **Certified Local Government (CLG)** program, which encourages the direct participation of local governments in the identification, evaluation, registration, and preservation of historic properties within their jurisdictions.
- **Yearly Winter Decorating of Main Street**, with holiday lights on lamp posts, bandstand, and playground, and decorations on the bandstand, Howden Hall, and Holley Hall.
- Attended meetings of the Design Review Commission for design-related zoning projects.
- Facilitated the relocation of **Recycled Reading of Vermont** from their previous premises at 20 Main Street to the larger and higher profile location of 1 Main Street in the downtown. Supported owner with design, creation, and installation of storefront signage.
- Attended statewide **Downtown Retreat** in September to learn about best practices & new ideas, access state resources, and make useful connections for future opportunities.
- Launched a **new Bristol CORE website** detailing all aspects of the organization.
- Held regular conversations with downtown and local business owners, as well as Bristol property owners in the downtown district.

The Bristol CORE board also grew significantly this year with the addition of four new members: Aidan Lenihan, Meridith McFarland, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, and Amanda Sorrell. The board would like to recognize Carolyn Ashby for her dedication as a board member since 2011, and we are grateful for her continued support now as a community member.

Fundraising, sponsorships, and volunteered person-power enables Bristol CORE to implement the projects and events that keep Bristol buzzing. A town appropriation 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.

We welcome your ideas, involvement, enthusiasm and financial support! To learn more about our signature events, current projects, to get involved, or make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit our website, [www.bristolcore.org](http://www.bristolcore.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bristol CORE Board of Directors*

Board Members: Kelly Hamshaw, Aidan Lenihan, Meridith McFarland, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Amanda Sorrell

Ex-officio: Ian Albinson, Executive Director | Valerie Capels, Town Administrator