

BRISTOL CORE BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 9:00 AM
Holley Hall**

MEETING MINUTES

Prepared by Kelly Hamshaw

- I. Call to order: 9:00 AM – Valerie, Ian, Meridith, Aiden**
- II. Approval of minutes - January 30, April 3 – April 3rd minutes drafted by Kelly approved.**
- III. III. Scheduled Appointments**

A. Todd Warnock, Event Director, Vermont Gran Fondo – Provided overview of the Gran Fondo event to be held on June 29th with start and finish at the Bristol Recreation Fields. Todd came to visit Bristol CORE to see how local businesses could be more involved this year. Almost Home is providing the catering and previous years included Cubbers. Chamber of Commerce provides a “swag bag” with sponsored goods, branded water bottle. Discussed the potential for having a non-plastic bag sponsored by some organization in the future. Event is trying to minimize solid waste (compostable cutlery and cups at rest stops) and is encouraging food vendors to use compostable cups. Estimated 500-550 participants for this year’s event with support crew and rider guests for total influx of nearly 1100 people in town. Meridith asked about police presence for guiding bicyclists over App Gap due to concerns about safety and traffic being able to access App Gap due to concerns on Front Porch Forum. Meridith suggests more public communication/outreach to let local folks know about event. Typically riders arrive between 1-5 back to Bristol. After Party starts setting up at Noon and goes until 7 PM with 4 food and alcohol vendors (Wood Belly Pizza, Armotica, Almost Home, and Caha Madera). Ian shares that Bristol CORE is most concerned about the Downtown Block businesses to encourage guests to visit downtown. Todd suggests Friday night as being the prime time - 80% visitors from out of state and staying locally overnight and Sunday. Valerie suggests a local coupon – Todd can email participants that can be downloaded. The participating businesses could put a business card sized ad on a downloaded, printable PDF specifically for the Gran Fondo. Ian will also check on remaining copies of Bristol brochure. For 2020, if Gran Fondo returns to Bristol then Bristol CORE can explore options for doing something larger. Meridith will post to Front Porch Forum about the road rules as a way to help raise awareness about how to navigate roads safely with bicyclists. Todd will need materials two weeks prior to event.

Todd has a mounted bike repair rack that is destined for Bristol and it needs a concrete slab for a permanent location (Warren, Bristol, Middlebury, and Vergennes). It has a pump, tools, and a stand). Discussion of options for location: EV Station, Fire Station, and Holley Hall garden bed). Ian will follow-up on bike repair station location.

IV. Open items

A. Fundraising Campaign – Ian sent out 400 letters to individuals and business. Nearly \$2,000 raised from businesses and individuals so far. CORE received a finder’s fee for helping

the sale of 20 Main of \$2,175 – 1.5% finders' fee. Currently at about \$3,330 so making good progress towards 2019 goal.

B. April Newsletter – Ian needs to send Valerie a copy.

C. Pocock Rocks Music Festival & Street Fair – Aiden shared updates about logistics for 2019 Pocock Rocks and provided updated list with different headliner band (Pappy from Hinesburg). Needing to get the stage budget set. Keeping a formula with genre. Ian has the list of new and old acts and Aiden welcomes suggestions. Suggests keeping things fresh with one wildcard act from out of state. Aiden will send out availability offers to confirm and make offers depending on the budget. Ian provided an updated on the DLC conversation regarding alcohol at similar events – as it's a family event we'd need to hire private security firms and it would change the character of the event. The DLC contact recommend wristbands with a single entity at the point of the entrance to the designated areas. We would move forward this year as planned. Had discussed having different color cups for alcohol versus non-alcohol beverages. Pocock fundraising effort about \$6100 and making foo

D. Main Street Flower Baskets – All set for this year. \$2,100 coming in for this year. 13 baskets on Main St with 4 on Prince Lane. We'll work with Dubois and King for new lampposts for next year so we can discuss options for hardware/new baskets/new design. Aiden will be looking for a volunteer to help with watering. CORE is taking over the intersection plantings and so we'll need to make a plan for short and long term. Valerie suggests a barrel garden for a pop of color until re-design is finalized and suggests making barrels a sponsorship opportunity.

E. Bristol Bucks -- \$3,000 in the account. 50% of storefronts have decals with new Bristol Bucks logo. There seems to be more activity in the account. Meridith secured a RISE VT initiative grant and set aside \$100 for a raffle prize.

F. Howden Hall WiFi – Howden Hall hardware for wifi to be installed by end of month and CORE is covering the \$400. Meridith will update the rental form to reflect change.

G. Main Street Vacancies/Updates

- 9 Main Street – former Honeylights; the owner is not interested in selling the building so Tom Wallace is showing the space. One person is interested in a consignment store and another is interested in a “five and dime” store.

- 12 Main Street – Lynn has retired and space is available. Orvis' have an interested party.

- 20 Main Street – Susan and Michael Keith working towards June 1st opening for high end hair, beauty, wellness salon. Haven't done anything with exterior yet.

- Hatch block – Rumors that the owners are trying to sell building but it sounds like it fell through. \$500,000 building that needs significant work. Ian will keep tabs. Resources could include: tax credits, revolving loan fund.

- Thomas block – Potential that block may be for sale as well.

H. Tandem/Nat Bank Alleyway Project – Ian has investigated this opportunity for a while now. Sherry Jackman would like to close the driveway and Joel Bouvier has run the conversation with higher levels at the Bank so we could curb and add sidewalk. The Bank has

concerns about traffic concerns and having a nice area for employees to have lunch. Would be ideal to tie in project with the update.

I. Town of Bristol

a) Main Street Lighting & Sidewalk Improvements – Ian has been providing details about what CORE needs for events. Meeting the following week with engineers to discuss next steps.

Other updates:

- Valerie shares updates about the grease trap issues and the septic system. New Ordinance on Selectboard agenda. The town pays to have a contractor pump four grease traps for Bristol Cliffs, Cubbers, Wokky's and Tandem. Shaw's is not currently using a grease trap at all. Appears to be a serious issue that needs to be addressed.
- For water system capacity - Considering a planning loan application to the State's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund and its RFQ process.
- Meridith provided update on a group of folks interested in developing mountain bike trails in order to replicate the downtown revitalization from Kingdom Trails. Could leverage new opportunities for outdoor gear store. Hosting a community forum to gauge interest with goal of a trail from Bristol downtown to Bristol Pond. Exploring options for organizing under Bristol Trails Network. Valerie asks about the Winona Recreational Area at the corner of Plank and North St?

IV. J. Next Meeting – May 1, 2019