

# BRISTOL CORE

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

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 keep our town vibrant, celebrate its history, and plan for its future.

## Events and Marketing

- **Pocock Rocks Music Festival & Street Fair** - Our Signature June event brought an exceptional line-up of musical performers, vendors, and activities to downtown Bristol.
- **Chocolate Walk** - Despite snowy weather, the event, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, attracted an excellent community turnout.
- **Eat, Drink and Be Merry** - Returned for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, encouraging people to take in local musical acts and refreshments. Co-sponsored with Recycled Reading of Vermont.
- **Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light** - Our 4<sup>th</sup> year and the biggest turnout yet! The community enjoyed lantern-making, fire performance on the green, a procession down Main Street, and food & drink around the fire pits at Tandem and Vermont Tree Goods. Co-sponsored with Tandem.
- **Open Play at Holley Hall** - Our weekly gathering for babies, toddlers, or preschoolers on the move! Co-sponsored with the Bristol Rec Dept.
- **Reel Film Fridays** - Our Friday evening film series, in collaboration with Lawrence Memorial Library, continues to entertain with a wide selection of classic and contemporary films.

## Town & Community Relationships

- **Lawrence Library AV Project** - Collaborated with the Lawrence Memorial Library to install a permanent audio/visual projection set up to accommodate a variety of events, including film showings, lectures, kids' activities, and more.
- **Local Community Initiatives** - 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.
- Continued conversations with the **Planning, Energy, and Conservation** Commissions, and regularly attended Town Selectboard meetings.

## Public Improvements & Historic Preservation

- **Main Street Lighting & Sidewalk Improvements Project** - Liaison with the Town of Bristol for this 2020 project that will update 14 main street lamp posts, inlays between the curb and the sidewalk, address drainage issues, improve ADA access, and include the replacement of the south side sidewalk. Bristol CORE is also working to include improvements to the pedestrian crossing at the east end of downtown block with bump outs, improved signage, and manual crossing signals.
- **Main Street Flower Baskets** - All lamp posts on Main Street and Prince Lane had sponsorship from a variety of generous local businesses and individuals. Thanks to Rocky Dale Gardens for basket design and planting.

- **Yearly Winter Decorating of Main Street** - holiday lights and decorations on lamp posts, the bandstand, Howden Hall, and Holley Hall, in collaboration with the Bristol Rec Dept.
- **Howden Hall Community Wi-Fi** - Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom provided a new fiber-optic connection to the building allowing the installation of a Wi-Fi router on the first floor, allowing free and fast internet connection for the building.
- **Pop Up Parklet** - Exploratory project, working with the National Bank of Middlebury in Bristol, to design and develop a temporary pop up parklet in an unsafe alleyway between the Rockwood block (Tandem) and the Bank block in the downtown district.
- Attended meetings of the **Design Review Commission** for design-related zoning projects.

### Economic Development

- **Bristol COWORKING** - Bristol CORE created a new coworking space above the Bristol Cliffs Café. Two membership levels accommodate the needs of local freelancers, startups and remote workers.
- Aided in the sale of the 20 Main Street building.
- Welcomed five new businesses downtown; *Harmonia*, *Simon Says*, *Your Home*, *Island Girl Jewelry*, and *West St. Beauty*.
- **Bristol Bucks** - Continued support and promotion for Bristol's unique local currency that can be used as a gift certificate in most Bristol businesses. Over \$4700 was purchased in 2019!
- Held regular conversations with downtown and local business owners, as well as Bristol property owners in the downtown district.

The Bristol CORE board continues to evolve with the addition of Hub Director Taylor Welch. Our thanks to outgoing board members Katie Raycroft-Meyer and Amanda Sorrell for their work this past year.

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 taxpayers in our fantastic 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, Taylor Welch  
Ex-officio: Ian Albinson, Executive Director | Valerie Capels, Town Administrator