

Coffee and Conversation Wednesday September 1st – town green

Present – Ian Albinson, (Bristol Core) Taylor Welch (Bristol Core, Rec Department), Elissa Cobb (Yarn and Yoga), Maura Donnelly (Simon Says), Alicia Standridge (Your Home), Sheila Collette (Your Home), Shawna Sherwin (Honey Lights)

- Brief introductions
- Discussed details of radio ad for Bristol on WVTM w/ Bruce and Hobbes
- Sidewalk and roadwork project
 - No finish date yet, getting closer so it might be easier for Hutchinson to predict
 - Ian was asking them to replace certain areas that were still collecting water
- Covid-19
 - Stores and businesses should hand in reports on expenses related to COVID-19 operations to Ian for possible funding opportunities
- VT Restart Stimulus Grant - CORE
 - Joint application, partnering with Middlebury, Vergennes, Chamber of Commerce, and Bristol
 - \$10,000 per town – money would be spent on local currency which would be used for raffle/handout program in all three downtowns. Total of \$35,000 would be given away by shop owners.
 - Details about how it would operate was discussed and weighed.
 - Brief discussion regarding how Bristol Bucks works
 - Chamber of Commerce would be spending \$5,000 on marketing leading up to event to maximize the success.
 - Proposed dates of event are October 16th to November 11th.
- Shop Local Grant
 - Gift certificate hand out program
 - Shops sign up online to agree to give something away, shoppers sign up to receive something. An algorithm matches folks up.
 - Folks are interested in using the program and exploring how it works.
- Side walk sale – September 26th & 27th rain dates October 3rd & 4th
 - Discussion about what days/hours folks will be open. Sounds like both days.
 - Rec department made google map with pins for each store that links to stores websites. Stores should make sure their website are up-to-date.
 - Possibility for music – Ian will post on FPF looking for musicians
- “Jumpstart Campaign” before Restart VT giveaways as build-up.
 - Data will need to be sent to state, discussed data collection techniques
- Locally – Maura brought up Locally app that helps distributors connect shoppers with local places that care their products. Maura is interested in becoming involved and wanted feedback from others regarding if they had used it.
- Halloween – Discussion about Halloween plans. Rec Department will talk with Middlebury Rec for their plan. Possible distribution sites, discussion about best practices and risk assessment for the holiday.