

**MINUTES**  
**BRISTOL SELECT BOARD**  
**July 21, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Select Board Members: Rick Alpers, Shaun Lagueux, Janet Cote, Betsy Schneider, and Town Administrator Michael Capone.

Invited guests present: Mark Scarano, Chief Executive Officer, Grafton County Economic Development Council, Benoit Lamontagne, Regional Resource Specialist, Division of Economic Development, State of New Hampshire, Jeff Hayes, Executive Director, Lakes Region Planning Commission, Scott Stephens, Executive Director, Plymouth Regional Chamber of Commerce and Chuck Henderson, Special Assistant for Projects and Policy, Senator Jeanne Shaheen's Office.

Chairman Alpers called the meeting to order at 8:15AM.

Mr. Alpers welcomed all of the invitees and thanked them for taking the time to attend the work session.

Mr. Alpers took a few minutes to review some of the more recent infrastructure projects undertaken by the Town including the Central Square improvements, additional planned sidewalk work, the new playground and others. He also noted the recent purchase of some previously unoccupied buildings downtown and the plans to improve them. It was also noted that other landlords in Central Square had been making improvements to their buildings. He also mentioned the recent expansion of the weekly Farmers Market to a new location on Town owned property at the Bike Path and the subsequent threefold increase in participation and attendance.

Mr. Alpers asked the invitees to comment on their thoughts and ideas with regard to business retention and support of current businesses. The common thread in their comments was centered on outreach and communication. It was noted that it is much easier to retain an existing business than to bring in a new one. Visits by the various agency members to local business were discussed as a way to gain awareness of the issues of concern and how to address them if possible. The use of a survey to help gauge areas of concern and interest was also discussed. It was noted by many of the invitees that Bristol had established itself as a leader among many of the Towns in the area with regard to development and was well positioned for continued growth.

There was also a discussion of what could be done to attract new businesses. Among the strategies discussed was, improvements to communication infrastructure such as phone and internet. For many businesses location is not as key to them as the ability to communicate effectively with the marketplace. A build out analysis was discussed as a mechanism for gauging the business growth potential for the community. Also discussed was the possibility of doing a business property inventory so that we can direct potential businesses to appropriate facilities. Another key point was to explore the possibility of partnering with businesses or landlords to help them find tenants for their buildings or develop partnerships with other property owners to share resources and space. There was also discussion of some of the new laws and regulations that could be implemented through Town Meeting votes that

would encourage development. The idea of a task force or committee to work on some of these ideas was discussed.

Chairman Alpers thanked the invitees for meeting with the Board to share their thoughts and ideas. He was hopeful that this would be the first in a series of discussions with regard to economic development. The invitees were all happy to participate and willing to help in any way they can.

With no other public business to come before the Board, at 9:43AM, Mr. Lagueux made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schneider. The Board voted to 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael Capone

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Rick Alpers, Chair

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Shaun Lagueux, Vice Chair

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Betsy Schneider, Select Board

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Janet Cote, Select Board