

Bristol Economic Development Committee

September 7, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Present: Bill Dowey, Jamiet Cavanaugh, Jeff Goodrum, Vincent Paul Migliore, Nik Coates, Leslie Dion, Jamie Bemis (recently graduated MIT in community planning)

Bill opened the meeting and introduced Jamie Bemis who is signing on to help while she is in the area.

Business Roundtable: There was discussion on what time of day would work best for people. It was suggested that we go with an evening at 6 pm. The content could include:

- How do we help businesses be more successful?
- Property Maintenance & Building Code topics – on agenda for tonight but will wait for Scott Lacroix to present to us
- Cell service information – we don't have the answer at this point. Bill thinks that rushing into this meeting without specific answers on this may not be a great idea.

Cell Service Status: We have three companies that we are dealing with. They have been doing research and have one site that shows some good promise. With this being a competitive process we do not have a lot of info yet.

Metrocast is doing a good job of cleaning up the Hemphill area site. There is no corrosion on their tower. They are going to make it a bare tower in case anyone chooses to go there. There are some blind spots for service on the Eastern side of Sugar Hill. If this site was used the Town may want to consider purchasing some small cells to pick up these blind spots. This could be accomplished through town funds or grant funds if available.

Vincent suggests that we make this an agenda item for the roundtable and just give what info we can at this point on our progress. Nik would agree that we would need to address this as much as we are able to as this is the main issue that business owners are concerned about.

Nik suggests the meeting could be a status update from the EDC and then ask the business owners what their status update would be for items to be considered.

If we are considering that the cell service could be a warrant article then this would be a good way to get the info out and gain support. Bill said that having Jamie and her father – who has a software company – speak on the need for this from a new business standpoint – might be helpful.

Jeff suggests that we work to attract the younger population to the meeting and get them involved in the process of helping us to make this happen. For the older population Nik said that the gain is better availability for emergency services. Vincent said we need local solutions that the business community

can take advantage of immediately. We should incentivize the businesses to help us to financially make this happen.

Bill said that he feels that we need to do a little more planning of this event prior to sending out invites. Nik suggests that we look to an October meeting and use the next meeting as a planning session. Bill said that we need to script it as we do for our video footage. Jeff is not going to be available during that time frame but will write out what he thinks should be highlighted from a business standpoint. We can all work on the following ideas of infrastructure; government & retail needs from our perspective.

Jeff said that it would be great to have the existing map of what we have today for cell service would be very effective to have. Bill said he could try to get that chart so that we could use it as a visual.

Nik said as we discuss local solutions this leads into the microcell discussion and whether it would be helpful to have these in certain places. Vini suggests that we see if NLRA has a relief map where we could populate the cell service areas. By communicating the challenges, brainstorming solutions and moving forward we can do this on a local level.

Nik said that he was on a forum that was discussing how to incentivize businesses to invest in the community. He found that there are Economic Revitalization Zones (ERZ) and Bristol has 2. One includes Ayres Island (State Highway & Town Highway) and Danforth Brook area. ERZ2 includes FNOK & Hannaford. These areas offer a tax credit to businesses that re-locate to those zones. We work with DRED to designate these zones. These were designated in 2012 and need to be redone in 2017. They are designated based on:

- Unused or underutilized industrial parks; or
- Vacant land or structures previously used for industrial, commercial, or retail purposes but currently not so used due to demolition, relocation of the former occupant's operations, age, obsolescence, deterioration, brownfields, or cessation of operation resulting from unfavorable economic conditions either generally or in a specific economic sector.

A potential area to be added would be the brick building on Central Street near the power station. Bill said it has an incredible power feed that looks to be in good shape.

Nik would like to pursue more information on the ERZ's and Bill suggests we put this on the agenda for that meeting.

Pemi Path: As part of infrastructure we want to work on the Pemi Path. Nik has submitted TAP application for \$500,000 that would take care of sidewalks and another grant for RTP. He is working on an EFLAP & LWCF grant as well. For the TAP we need to put up 20%. The LWCF could be up to \$200,000 and would have a similar match. If we were to do the park and make it the entry point we can then apply for the EFLAP funds. In each case there is money required from the town. The challenge with the EFLAP grant is that the property is owned by the hydro company but the town has deeded rights to it. Just beyond the rocks on that property is the entrance to the old depot area. We have ownership over some of this area but between our land and Profile Falls is Army Corp of Engineers land. The DOT

created some landslide issues along 3A that have not been taken care of. The DOT agreed in 2013 to address some of the issues but as yet have done no work. The Army Corps has said that no agreement can happen for our trail until the DOT takes care of the damage that they did. Our most recent response from DOT was that there is a problem but it is not there problem. They claim the landslide is caused by underground water. Nik is working to get a meeting with DOT and the Army Corps to try to come to a solution. He has spoken with Jeanie Forrester and someone from Annie Custer's office to see how we may be able to motivate DOT since they had given a documented letter stating that they would take some action in 2013. Nik spoke with Tina from the Army Corps and explained where we are at. He said that he would help develop maps to see where the canyons fall but he is doubtful that any of them fall outside of Army Corp land.

Mike Vignale has suggested a check dam that would move the water to another area as a potential solution.

Topics for Business Roundtable: Bill is concerned that we will go to this with ideas but no solutions. If the carriers go away we will need to go the small cell solutions.

- Cell Service Status Report
 - Micro cell - planning grant would help us put the map together for this
 - Have potential solutions with approximate costs
- Potential date for Roundtable could be 10/19 or 10/26. We will solidify this at the next meeting.

By-Laws: Nik suggests that he and Bill will work on them and then bring them to the group if we agree. Nik will incorporate Vini's thoughts as well. The group was comfortable with this approach.

We viewed the Bristol Falls Park & Falls Link Trail. There will be a public viewing at the Library on 9/19 as this is a condition of the LWCF grant process. Bill is hoping for some positive comments for the proposal.

Next Meeting: September 21st @ 6 pm

Adjournment: Jeff Goodrum moved to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Les Dion seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Dion