

Community Development Committee

Minutes 5-31-2017

Attending: Chuck Renneker, Carmen Lone, Steve Rickert, Nelle Ely, Dave Crowell, Bob Peabody, Catherine Samuels, Justin McIver

Sewer and Streetscape

Once it's done it will be done for 20 years

What about putting power lines underground?

Two million to put electric lines under ground quoted years ago.

Maybe costs will be less because roads will be opened up already.

Low income affect

Runoff from the brook

Looking at testing the brooks in downtown and Smith Ave to see if e coli from human waste is evident

Wait for ad agency recommendations

The ad firm will help to inform all different groups of people about sewer and streetscape

Carmen has heard from people that are not in favor of the new sewer

Bob -plan to hire an engineering firm to oversee the project.

Justin has been busy- "Bridgton Needs" list has gotten lots of input

Formalized his list, but still looking for ideas and then decide what is most important

Justin said there was a 2nd mtg of young professionals

and group study on the list

Maybe BCCC and Anne's old list and 2nd home owners (late August) to reach out to more people?

Carmen will send out Justin's list to her list

Action item

Anne's email list

Carmen's

Justin - 3 projects

1 "Bridgton Improvements" list

Amazing how people become aware about what might improve Brdgton

Recruitment is next to expand and assist with new businesses

Promoting Bridgton

Needs list - some could be combined

We can let entrepreneurs decide for themselves

Intent of needs list: Justin says the public wants more options

Chuck thinks we need a concerted effort by "the town".

Need jobs for the kids who grow up and then leave town for jobs.

Chuck - needs list appears to be all commercial

Ursula came back from trip to Austria. Thinks that they have a vibrant atmosphere and people had pride in their town. Often, there was a theme in the towns. Rufus Porter could be an example of a theme here.

The Rufus Porter Museum has suggested they would like to see a Rufus Porter Beer.

Maybe create a list for regional planner of things to do

Carmen talked to Chamber of Commerce will talk more

Time frame for new director end of July

Dave had an observation that people who want change are people who have lived here, while summer people want to keep things the same -cute little town.

Improvements list

We need branding although people want to keep the eclectic style

How do we take the lists and make them into an action?

Reach out to businesses in other towns

Our economic director j- has a lot of work to do and no time to call all the businesses

How to get it done?

Peter – Business person is more likely to speak to another business person. They can relate to Justin or another business person who has done the work here.

Town can support what he is doing with young professionals.

Ursula – create an interest and then a process, and maybe once a month have a presentation/forum of businesses/entrepreneurs

Chuck - Marketing plan needed – for cold call you need a list – need a speech – talk to the decision maker – need people to make cold calls would be business people

They say send me some information – need a brochure to tell about Bridgton

Show and tell events need packets of info

How to get it done?

Marketing plan – cold calling- packet of info – show and tell

Justin – Marketing plan is good, but I can call and talk or go in to talk to them

Bob-look at successful Maine businesses - the donut shop from Windham

We are looking at drawing from outside when maybe there are people here – article in paper?

Justin – Bridgton is an emerging market.

Bob – money in budget for Black Fly to market and they should come in to talk to this committee.

Justin – It took 3 years of persistent talking to get Bavarian chocolates to have a shop here

Comes down to quality of life – What's going on in our communities – people look for culturally vibrant – people want amenities

Phyllis will write an article about 3 needs

Wayne may be talking/meeting with us -

Two weeks from Friday the 16th of June

The Town website has been changed and is better to access

Why has Dr. Sullivan's house not been torn down? El will look into it

Chuck - Hospital approached the town about the town setting aside to establish a medical district in this town. Only medical related businesses in that district. Mike Tarantino said in past – which hospital here and so many seniors it is perfect for Bridgton. Possibly a Medical Campus.

Did they say there are medical people who want to come here to start a business?

Would be great to get higher income workers to live here.

Carmen thinks the efficiency of scale makes sense but under current political conditions it could be risky. But it would make it easier for clients and for aging clients particularly.

Ursula – Great idea to explore it. Need details.

Evan – We need to consider that it may be in a zone that may be a tax free.

Chuck – Bridgton Academy is buying a lot of property and it comes off the town tax roll.

Dave – With all the anticipation of new businesses we need more people to spend money. In favor of having a medical development

Justin – if we need to offer tax free zone then we should go with it because it will add to the working population

Carmen says there are many factors with the child care situation unresolved

A local daycare provider said that she could double her business, so Justin will look into the need

Nell will talk to niece to inquire if she might want to expand to Bridgton

Carmen – Hospital wants to integrate mental health into patient services, in order to make it the less traumatizing for people. Creating the medical campus would make that possible.

Talk about patient load and shortage of parking

Head of hospital could meet with us to tell us how they are doing and what they need

Action Items:

Chuck - outline sales plan

Follow up to hospital campus idea

Nell follow-up on parking on hill

Carmen - website

Justin - will compile info for lists

Chuck - our goal is to develop action plans to present to BOS

If as citizens we want to undertake the plan, decide how to do it

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Samuels