

Minutes, Bucksport Economic Development Committee – July 12, 2016

Attending: Paul Rabs, Andy Lacher, Linda Plourde, Mark Eastman, Frank Dunbar, Larry Wahl, Jeff Hammond and Rich Rotella.

Paul Rabs called the meeting to order at 5:04pm. June minutes were reviewed and the minutes were accepted by Mark Eastman and seconded by Linda Plourde.

Code Enforcement Officer Update: Jeff Hammond gave a Main Street update. He says the Lighthouse Art Gallery project on the water view side is moving along nicely with the addition and creation of the lighthouse replica is up to the roof point. The roofing company has put on an entirely new roof. There is hope that part of the building will be able to be occupied for the Art Festival on August 13, 2016, and Jeff will talk to the owner a couple of weeks before the event and determine if the downstairs space can be used. Jeff informed us that 151 Main Street is under contract and that the buyer plans to use the building as office space and will subdivide. This same person owns 117 & 119 Main St. He says that 117 Main St (a mobile home) will be coming out and will be replaced by something but isn't sure what it will be as of yet. Jeff received a land use permit and sign permit for Huckleberries Card & Gift which will be Opening on July 20, 2016. He met with the new owner of the septic company in Heritage Park. He said they talked about operations and plans and that the owner will be coming to the planning board hopefully at the next meeting to take care of the unauthorized expansion. Jeff said we may have an application for a new church as the Franklin Methodist Church is moving. He said they bought a piece of property on the Silver Lake Road, it was half of a field located just before the Kave. The church has decided that where they are now is too costly to repair. Linda asked Jeff what was going on with the property across from the former Qwik Stop. She said it burned down over a year ago (if not longer) and there was a washer, dryer, and oil tank still left on the property. Jeff said he will take a drive by the property and take a look at what is or isn't still left on site.

Picnic Point Panels for Review: Rich emailed the final copies to the board (gave a printed copy to Larry Wahl & Frank Dunbar). Paul said he wasn't able to open the file to read them. The group was given a printed copy of each of the panels. Paul asked what was done to fill the space on the Rich in Heritage Panel. Jeff said that he decided to talk about the Red Paint burial site discovered in 1891. Jeff said he made some other changes which included spelling and grammar mistakes and the addition of where to find additional information on each panel. Linda said that she wished on the Of Ships & War panel that we added "Before Pearl Harbor that the Penobscot Expedition was the worst naval disaster in US history. Jeff said that it was originally on the panel but Emerich Spooner took exception to it so it was removed. Pat Ranzoni didn't like the way the graphic designer changed the layout of her poem and she wanted it restored to its original layout. Linda said that she didn't like the "River Legend" that it didn't add anything to the past or future of Bucksport. Jeff though it fit the theme of the panel well. Linda asked how these panels would be covered (plexi-glass or other means). Jeff said it is a laminate film and he isn't sure how long they will last but it is durable material. Andy said he hoped they would last longer than 5 years. Jeff said the plan will be to take this committee's recommendation if we approved to the Town Council Meeting on July 14 and if the corrections were made get them to Banner City who said they could have them turned around in 2 days. He said there are hopes these will be up in time for Bay Festival. Andy made a motion to approve, Larry seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Television station advertising for Review: Paul & Andy agreed they didn't like WLBZ's theme of having us lumped in with other former mill towns. Linda didn't like want to advertise during the summer she felt people didn't watch as much television in the summer. Mark said that he didn't believe television advertising was the best medium for marketing and believes it is worth exploring social media outlets because of cost effectiveness and the fact you can target certain demographics. Paul said the CW was the most favorable cost wise but their programming is underwhelming. Linda suggested having WABI bring us a proposal during the fall with better hours and on WABI. The group decided to pass on television station advertising this time around.

Economic Development Director Update: Rich said he purchased a new water access sign and Jeff helped him install at the Post Office, replacing the old destroyed sign. Rich ordered (5) Harbor Tour & (5) Live music signs from Banner City as it was cheaper to order 10 than it was 5. Rich paid for 4 new banner signs for direction to the waterfront with pictures of landmarks. Andy thought it would be nice to purchase property down past gazebo where the unused railroad tracks are sitting. He said it would be nice to have tracks removed and have it grassed into the banks where you can add picnic tables and trees and rename the "Center of the Known Universe" to "Picnic Point". Frank said it would be nice to have the bamboo and overgrown trees cut down between Lewis & Malm and Sawyers Auto because it would be a great view if it were cleaned up. Rich mentioned 2 new "Take a Hike" signs were installed by Larry Wahl: 1 on the rest room building by Harborview Restaurant and 2 on the information booth sign by the Veteran's Memorial. Harbor Tours have started and take place on Wednesdays & Thursdays. Rich mentioned that he and a few officials met with State Farm Insurance who are interested in moving a branch to Bucksport. Upcoming events: Blue Northern Band for Wednesday on Main July 13th, Pixie Harbor Hoopla July 17th, Heart & Soul's 1st block party @ Reggie Ginn Field on July 19th, and Bay Festival on July 22nd-24th. Frank said that Thursday, July 14th at Buck Memorial Library a group is coming up from Bowdoin College to talk about Admiral Peary and the Roosevelt. Linda mentioned that the group typically doesn't meet during the summer. The group came to a consensus not to have a meeting in August but will reconvene in September.

Adjournment: Andy made the motion at 6:16pm and it was seconded by Mark.

Submitted by Rich Rotella

Next BEDC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13th @ 5:00 pm

Heart & Soul Headquarters at 72 Main St.