

## Minutes, Bucksport Economic Development Committee – March 8, 2016

*Attending: David Kee, Peter Stewart, Jim Boothby, Frank Dunbar, Mark Eastman, Daphne Eyerer, John Paul Lalonde, Larry Wahl, Andy Lacher, Rich Rotella, and Paul Rabs. Code Enforcement: Jeff Hammond*

David Kee called the meeting to order and asked if anyone would volunteer to take minutes. No one offered so Rich said because the meeting was being recorded that he would log the minutes. February minutes were reviewed and a few edits were made: Larry Wahl said on Page 2 Paragraph 1 to change "Oblate Seminary" to "East Maine Conference Seminary", John Paul LaLonde said on Page 3 Paragraph 5 to remove sentence that read "Rich's salary was covered by grants", and Daphne Eyerer said on Page 3 Paragraph 4 to scratch out "Offered her services as a master gardener volunteer. The revised minutes were accepted by Mark Eastman and seconded by Larry Wahl.

**Review of Correspondence from US Dept of Commerce:** Rich Rotella received a request from Charlotte Mace to update a previously completed letter by David Milan in June 2015. Peter Stewart and David Kee didn't recognize this previously coming through the Town Council. John Paul LaLonde said that this reminds him of what recently transpired between the Town and Penobscot Nation. Peter Stewart recommended that these folks come talk to us in person, so we know what is going on. Jim Boothby said "it's not typical to get letters of support for a grant application and they are going to reach out to different communities and connections." **Recommendation made to reach out to Charlotte Mace and have her present to the Town Council and she can have that done by reaching out to Sue and have it placed on the Agenda.**

**Waterfront Vendor Update:** Peter Stewart said we had an ordinance/waterfront committee meeting 2 weeks ago and we have decided to slow down and make sure we are going down right path to get this done and get it done correctly. If we move it today we might end up with organ grinders and monkeys on a stick for vendors. Jeff Hammond has started drafting an ordinance and he has questions and is looking for answers. The next meeting of the joint committee is March 31<sup>st</sup>. David Kee said "what came out of Jeff's presentation is that nothing is as simple as when you first start out thinking about it. What constitutes a vendor?" Jeff Hammond said we are trying to match it up with land use ordinance and business licensing ordinance. **Recommendation we are proceeding but taking an in-depth look at it.**

**Code Enforcement Officer:** Jeff Hammond elaborated more on the vendor ordinance. As a result of the joint committee meeting he made a suggestion to make the business licensing ordinance consistent with the land use ordinance. Land use ordinance calls it Outdoor Vendor and this label is not used at all in our business licensing ordinance. We have itinerant vendors, concession stands, and lunch wagons. His suggestion is to take these 3 and combine them into a new land use subject to licensing in Chapter 6 called Outdoor Vendors to make it consistent. The committees asked him to draft language in regards to that and he will be presenting it to them on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Another ordinance the Planning Board looked at in their last meeting was the Flood Plain Ordinance. We were informed by FEMA that the new flood maps will become effective July 21, 2016. We have to update our ordinances and get them all approved before that date. The committee has scheduled a Public Hearing on this item at their next scheduled meeting in April. Once this is completed it will be passed on to the Town Council for their review. The primary change in the ordinance is that we will have a new flood zone called "The Velocity Zone." This is located along the shorefront and is a zone that deals with potential damage from wave action. We do not have this right now. Jeff said we just learned yesterday from a telephone call he received from a supplier that the demolition contractor, De Novo Construction, for AIM has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. This has led work to come to a stand-still at the former mill site. Don Houghton said he heard that the railroad and other sub-contractors had not been paid. David Kee said this makes it more essential that we invite Jeff to come in to tell the Town Council: What is going on?

What progress has been made? What the status of things is? Jeff said we have reached out but have not received a response as of yet. Rich explained that he met with Jeff McGlinn and the Mayor last Wednesday. It was brought to Rich's attention that Jeff was currently out of the country. David Kee asked if it was permanent. Peter Stewart said "No." David Kee suggests we go up the ladder with someone in the company to get them to tell us what is going on. Finally, Jeff said there was a very well written article in the Ellsworth American pertaining to Wilson Hall. He said any chance for publicity is good and it will generate more interest. As a matter of fact, he received a call shortly afterwards from a retired minister who is interested in helping to find funding sources. Jeff said he is waiting to hear back on the progress that he is making with it.

**Heart and Soul Update:** Rich presented everyone with a flyer that is still in the process of being tweaked, but he wanted the committee to see the logo that Larry Wahl designed. Rich explained there was a Facebook page and website for Heart & Soul. He said that the group is still in Phase 1: Laying the Groundwork but the group would begin training for Phase 2: Exploring Your Community on April 30. He said they were waiting to hear back from insurance company in regards to moving into the Rosen's building and he stated the groups next meeting would be March 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 at the BHS library. Rich, John Paul & Colleen Gross were part of a radio call in show with WERU with the audio on line at [Bucksportheartandsoul.com](http://Bucksportheartandsoul.com) or in the archives on WERU's website.

**Economic Development Office Update:** Rich and Jim Boothby met with Brandy Leathers of Bruce Poliquin's office after the RSU 25/Realtor Tour sponsored by Camden National Bank. RSU 25 will be looking to hold this again in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. No date has been set as of yet. Rich & Sue Lessard met with Carol Woodcock from Susan Collins' office and Chris Rector from Angus King's office. Rich and Mayor Keene met with Dick Campbell. Rich and John Paul met with Richard Rosen.

**Wednesday On Main:** David Kee advised the group to look at the last 2 pages in the packet in which the 2<sup>nd</sup> page includes the program line-up for the coming year. He suggested the Economic Development Committee, Town Employees and Town Council attend the events in a show of support. He explained that there is an advertisement going to be in the Down East Magazine this spring. He said that Paula Kee will also reach out through social media. Paul Rabs recommended handing out packets to the cruise ship passengers as he, his wife, David Kee and Paula Kee did last year. He said the patrons were happy last year when they received the new resource guide, and suggested this year we include a list of the W.O.M. events, movie information, and church service hours. David Kee said there is no reason why this can't happen this year. He asked for a reminder from Paul to bring this up at the Town Council Meeting on Monday evening, so it isn't just talked about then forgotten.

**Heritage Park Sign Update:** Rich reached out to Linwood Bridges via email looking for location and time to have sign returned so the committee could see the condition of the sign to see how to proceed. Rich hasn't heard back from Mr. Bridges and will continue to reach out to him. Rich located a proposal Mr. Bridges which was over \$6,000 meaning the sign would have to go to bid. Peter Stewart questioned if this was a new topic. Rich explained this has been ongoing and was put on hold while the electronic sign was being discussed and due to the fact that Mr. Bridges had yet to return the sign.

**225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The actual date of the anniversary is June 25, 2017. Bay Festival is held July and the Art Festival is held in August. Rich is asking for guidance on the celebration. David Kee suggested it should be on the agenda in a few months. Larry & Daphne thought Rich should be the coordinator with the involvement of all the local groups. John Paul said it is not too soon to start planning and cited Casine's success with Le Hermione. Peter Stewart acknowledged May 2017 is 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Maine Maritime Academy.

**New Business:** Ron Russell has a background in marketing and has been intrigued of the idea of Bucksport's Main St. He is talking about The AIM site which has waterfront and a power plant and Maine Maritime being landlocked with nothing further they can do for expansion. The AIM site would be good teaching site for an expansion for the Academy. He also referenced LD 1652 which is about solar energy in the state. He states the big argument is net metering versus color tracks. Part of the bill is community energy development in solar. There is a huge bark dump on the site and maybe prop windmills up there to make it more attractive to the Academy. Another idea Ron shared pertains to Star Kempf in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Star built kinetic sculptures made out of aluminum. They are in a neighborhood that a thousand of people go to because it is so unique. He also noticed this in Beaver Creek, which is part of Vale in Colorado. He said they have a farm of these kinetic sculptures. He said there are empty spaces in Bucksport and 2 pylons in the river and we can put like 50 of them in these areas and something like this may draw the people to town. He said they are 20-30 feet high and they are different every time you go because they are always moving. He said once you get people here the other stuff might follow. He suggested if you get ½ million dollars in grants and pony up the other ½ million dollars, that we might be able to get the people to construct them here. He suggests there is no place in Maine that has something like this. Lyman Whitaker, lives in Arizona, and makes them in Kennebunkport in the summer. Ron has written to him but hasn't heard back from him yet. David Kee says to continue to bring it forward. Ron has a graphic artist that is working with him on this so he can make a presentation. He envisions larger models similar to the ones in Colorado Springs. Ron also pointed out there is a Job Fair at the High School on March 24<sup>th</sup> and thinks it is worthy for supporting. Paul Rabs asked Rich to speak in regards to a meeting with Fairpoint. The three ring binder is redundant in town because it already existed. Sue Lessard asked Rich to reach out to speak to Steve Grant and TWC. Fairpoint updated the hub on Central St that enabled the downtown to move from a 3mb download/1mb upload to 25mb download/3mb upload. Paul Rabs mentioned LD 68 (broadband initiative) and that it carried over in the legislature. There is \$10 million for municipalities on work on 3 Ring Binder communications in the state. We need to see if Steve can give us a quote on the cost to put the device in the industrial park to make to make it into a technology park. Paul says Sue Lessard is working on grant for research on 3 Ring Binder. He recommended having an update at the next Town Council meeting. The marina is full for the season. Bill is looking for more power to the docks and Peter Stewart agreed that we should see what he needs for additional power.

**Old Business:** Rich sent out a thank you letter to Bill Tymozcko for his service on the board. Larry Wahl is looking for piece of the bridge given to Bucksport. Could we do something with that? Make some sort of sculpture on the waterfront. Larry believes it is with DOT in Orland. Larry didn't know the size of the piece we received. Peter Stewart requested Rich to contact DOT. Larry asked if we could get the fountain in front of the Jed Prouty activated this spring. He said it was promised back in 1986. Larry suggested reaching out to the Town and Jake Chambers. David Kee said he would bring it to Sue's attention. Peter Stewart reminded everyone that the council meeting and all the sub-committee meetings were moved to Monday starting at 5pm. Peter Stewart made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mark Eastman.

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submitted by Rich Rotella

***Next BEDC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 @ 5:00 pm***

***Jewett School Conference Room***