

**Bucksport NEXT**  
"Group of Groups" Meeting M  
**Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 6 PM**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Facilitator/Scribe: Rob Carmichael**

1. **Welcome.**
2. **Introduction of participants.**
3. **Reminders of meeting purposes and community goals & visions.**
4. **Organizational needs.** *Appoint note taker for today.*
5. **Minutes:** *Adopt minutes of the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting per below.*

Documents regarding previous meetings are kept on the [Bucksport NEXT web page](http://www.bucksportmaine.gov) at [www.bucksportmaine.gov](http://www.bucksportmaine.gov). Minutes drafts are sent to participants following each meeting to solicit comments for possible revision. So, please take notes and help the process. Meetings will provide a "last chance" for revisions and informal consensus approval to create a record for the group.

**6. Updates:**

Representatives from each group present a short update of recent accomplishments, upcoming events and future goals. Feel free to suggest ways that other groups might help on your initiatives. To make sure that all groups have time to give an update, major news or projects can be mentioned now and elaborated later during item 7.

--**Brook Minner** from **Maine Street Bucksport** discussed the successful "Bucksport Bucks" promotion. Two dozen businesses signed up for \$10.00 coupon that were redeemed for \$20.00 at local businesses and the extra \$10 came from the matching fund. About 200 people purchased the coupons over six weeks at which time the matching funds had been depleted. The coupons expire at the end of October and most had been redeemed. The goal was to give people a good deal and of course to encourage local shopping. Roughly \$30k went to local businesses. They cancelled the Bridge to Gap race which was unfortunate as typically hundreds of people usually participated. The International Maritime Film Festival was totally online this year. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> year the festival had been done and the first totally online which was a lot of work. They sold a hundred \$10 festival passes for access to the films for a 10 day period in September. It was pretty successful and important to keep the momentum going for the festival. They have a few grant projects underway, one of which is a mural project for building facades of businesses. The first is for a mural on the side of the Alamo Theater. The second project is a "museum in the streets" which is a walking tour with signs that tell the story of Bucksport. This was in conjunction with the historical society. Brook met with the EDC to ask for funding for two things; one is to close the funding gap for the museum in the streets project. They raised \$17-18K but need another 3k to finish the project. Brook is working with Rich Rotella to use some funds donated to the town because of COVID to possibly use those funds for a "round" two of Bucksport Bucks program. They are hoping for another \$10k to use as a matching goal amount and hopefully get the program going for the holiday shopping period. They have carried on regular activities as much as possible including the "coffee hour" which was recently held at Verona Wine and Design courtyard. Brook has worked closely with

**Invited Groups:**

ADAPT Bucksport  
BACAS  
Bucksport Planning Board  
Bucksport Town Council  
Chamber of Commerce  
Comp Plan (Implementation)  
Friends of Fort Knox  
Friends of Silver Lake  
Great Pond Mt. Cons. Trust  
Heart and Soul Stewardship  
Healthy Communities Coalition  
HOME Co-op  
Historical Society  
Lighthouse Arts  
Main Street Bucksport  
Maine Maritime Academy  
Northeast Historic Film  
Penobscot Heritage Assn  
Senior Resource Committee  
RSU 25  
Wednesdays on Main  
Whole Oceans  
YMCA

Rich to survey business owners on the impact of the pandemic and get them resources needed to apply for all benefits they are eligible for. Unfortunately, Brook is leaving MSB to move in a different direction effective in spring of 2021.

--**Kristen** representing **Whole Oceans**. They have moved into an office on Main Street in Bucksport and Kristen is the only representative in this area. They haven't started moving earth yet but expect it to start in Q1 next year and hoping to start hiring sometime after that. She did not have any information on the specific timetable at this time.

--**Allen** from **MMA**—described the new facility at the mill site. MMA took over the building last August has been refurbishing the facility and it opened on February 8, 2020 for courses (continuing education course that support mariners and emergency responders around the world) in order to satisfy Coast Guard and international maritime regulations—required to maintain their licenses in advance of their specific fields. MMA has the instructors and expertise to provide that training. President Brennan has three main goals with the new program. First goal is to bring in revenue to allow them to keep tuition low. The second goal is to become the leading light in the maritime industry and become one of the leaders in the training and education around maritime safety. The third goal is to be a part of what Bucksport is doing in both the social and economic landscape as Bucksport. As the director, Allen's three main pillars are to continue to provide these top course offerings. They've had to do a lot of blended learning as a result of the pandemic. Next they want to build a world class set of facilities including fire suppression simulators, etc. Finally, they want to continue the local and regional outreach. They have had about 127 students go through the facility thus far with 47 different courses. They want to ramp up with another 31 course and have 131 people enrolled. Allen is happy to welcome anyone who would like to visit the facility and learn more about the mission and scope. Hans mentioned that he has pictures of students going through training and Allen suggested Hans send the pictures to him.

--**Mary Jane Bush** mentioned the pandemic has had a real impact on their ability to provide services with many services disrupted or curtailed. As a result, in June, Sue Lessard convened a group now called, the Bucksport Network Service Group that has been meeting to look at troubleshooting issues around service delivery for residents in our area. We have a variety of local representatives who attend those meetings. One of the key members has been Maine Public Health Nursing. Josephine Ellis has been assigned to our area and has been working with the town as well as other organizations in the community. She has been consulting with the Senior Center around COVID protocols around services in the community. She mentioned that the town's tremendous "*pay it forward program*" has been great and has a major impact by bringing hot meals three days a week to those who need them. This program is administered by the RSU 25 and Senior Center went from 30 meals each day to 170. These are home delivered meals which necessitated a distribution system to be created around it. This has been a big help to food insecurity issues. Transportation has been a crucial need and due to pandemic related concerns many of the drivers were unavailable. They have been promoting more telehealth options as a result of the reduction in transportation capacity. They have been developing a system where the patient can go to the health center and do tele-health calls from there. **Lilly** discussed the initiative to get people more tech savvy in their home. They are trying to increase tech use among older adults in the community to take advantage of telehealth and social engagement opportunities by partnering with Bucksport Adult Education, the Health Center, Bucksport Senior Center and Gardiner Commons. They are at the beginning of developing the program. The other program with Maine Public Health nursing is a flu clinic program they are ramping up at various locations. This will also act as a backbone of a future COVID

vaccine structure to faster and more efficiently deliver the vaccine.

--**John Paul Lalonde**—Penobscot Mountain Bike Association received two grants a couple of years (one from Maine Community Foundation and one from NEPA) ago to build mountain bike trails on the Great Pond Trust land. Leading up to that the group built a small trail along the South entrance to show what a sustainable mountain bike trail could look like to start working with the Great Pond Mountain Trust Association. That was a success so they have now built 3.5 miles off the Fish Hatchery road which has been a great success with lots of riders and people working on it. They've had a fundraising event with Dean at Fort Knox and showed a mountain bike film called, "Back to Earth" and we partnered with Maine Outdoors Film Festival who showed six small films and a feature film of about an hour long. This left everyone very excited about mountain biking and for what we could do in the future films at Fort Knox. It was a great setting and came off very well. The group is about building trails, mountain bike awareness, working with youth and getting them excited about the sport. The grant money was used with many volunteers to build the trails. There is a lot of good stuff happening out there.

--**Nancy Minot**—The Heart and Soul Facebook page our administrator, Bob Cottrell can tie everything that happens in the community to one of our statements. He sees much of what happens and it certainly for the most part resonates with our statements. Nancy offered to share the H&S action plan with both Kristen from Whole Oceans and Allen at MMA. Nancy was also representing Buck Memorial Library which has been closed during the pandemic. The trustees are using this time to do a lot of painting, cleaning, some electrical work, lighting (LED), etc. They have a new computer system with two new computers for community as well as an increased Wi-Fi signal which is being used consistently by the community. There are many more books to read and they are bar coding all books to provide more accessibility online. They have been in touch with many different librarians to bring them in to the library to share their expertise very closely working with the Maine State Library. The MMA librarian is meeting with the team to share her expertise. There is historical material in the library and they are working with the State archivist to determine how to archive and store historical items. They are looking for volunteers to assist with the work down there. The new REACH school director contacted them to see how the students may volunteer their help. They are all very excited with everything that has been going on; the library board has been doing a great job.

--**Dean** from Friends of Fort Knox—Fright at the Fort is the big fundraiser which they weren't able to do this year. They will be open for business on May 1<sup>st</sup>. They have about 100k people come through every year and they are happy to promote events from other groups in the racks of brochures. Despite the lower attendance of around 60k this year, the gift shop sales have been the same as last year. Dean invited everyone to come visit and check out what they are doing. He has a

binder there with all the businesses to share with visitors and help promote Bucksport.

--Rob asked the group to make sure that Hans has everyone's contact information. We are also open to anyone who wants to be on the list and part of the group to share information and resources. Allen also offered space at the MMA facility for future meetings. Brook asked if any town council members were on the contact list. Hans replied that a few were on but we should add all of them.

**7. Conclusions and *NEXT* Steps:**

What's *NEXT* for Bucksport *NEXT*? *Topic ideas for future meetings may be suggested.*

**8. Adjournment.**



*Bucksport NEXT updates, information and photos can be found on its Facebook page.*