

Minutes, Bucksport Economic Development Committee – November 3, 2016

Attending: Paul Rabs, Peter Stewart, Jim Boothby, Daphne Eyerer, Linda Plourde, Joel Wardwell, Mark Eastman, Frank Dunbar, Larry Wahl, Ron Russell and Rich Rotella.

Peter Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:01pm. There were no minutes available from the September meeting. Rich said he would have September and November minutes available for December's meeting.

Economic Development Director Update: Rich updated the group on food vendors stating that the waterfront committee voted unanimously to approve the concept of 1-2 vendors located on parking lots along the waterfront. It was recommended that no vendor be placed at the Veteran's Memorial Parking Lot. It was recommended to be at the Town Office Parking Lot or the Town Dock Parking Lot. Jeff has included in the proposal to the waterfront committee that there should be no vendors on the waterfront walkway unless it is part of a Town approved event (ie festivals). Rich said that State Farm has moved into the Lewis and Malm building and signs are up. The Leadbetter Super Store ground work has begun. Rich is still showing the mill property w/AIM to interested parties. Rich said that the grand opening of the Lighthouse Arts Center and Gallery was held downstairs in the building on October 14th. Currently Kathryn is occupying space at the Mott building. The entire building was scheduled to be open by November 26th but Rich isn't sure if that is still the target date and will follow up with her. Rich said that Heart & Soul has held 4 block parties and 37 stories have been gathered. He said the 5th and final block party will be held Sunday, November 13th at 4pm at the Edward K Arey Center. Rich let the group know that Wednesdays on Main was awarded the 2016 Downeast Acadia Regional Tourism Award in the Innovation & Creativity Category.

Main St Bucksport Update: Mark said the group is planning a holiday retail event in partnership with the chamber of commerce. A press release was put out with at least 5 events including a fundraiser for Main St Bucksport on December 16th which will be a cocktail party. The group is still looking into a venue. The goal is to hire someone to direct the program in 2017 and so far \$6,000 has been raised with the hopes to raise another \$4,000-\$5,000 towards this person and he said we will need the Town's buy in at some time. They received non-profit status through the State of Maine and have filed for 501-C3 from the federal government and hope to have that by the end of the year. In 2017 they are going to coordinate both the Bucksport Arts Festival and the International Maritime Film Festival through the Main St umbrella.

New Business: Jim said the school board is currently working on a review of the Strategic Plan for the school district. They just finished up last night putting together the survey and activities that they want to do with that. This committee will be one of the points of intersect and communicate and share that with folks to get the message out. The goal is through December and January and possibly into the first part of February is to get a number of contact points throughout the community (all aspects) within all 4 communities to review the mission and vision, affirm or reaffirm, and make changes we might like to see possible. Go back and make sure the community knows what has happened since the last time that was written and the changes that were made relative to people's dreams and where we are in that process. This plan was last completed in 2010. The plan is 6 years old now and the plan was to revisit it after 5 years but the board held off for 1 year because there was a probing going on by another community and the board felt if another community was interested in joining with the district they would like them to be a part of the redevelopment of the plan, so they were inclusive of it. The goal is to have the entire plan including any re-writes and editing by the end of the school year, so it can be used for the following year. This plan will include a number of different activities and they will be coming to EDC, Chamber of Commerce, Senior Resource Committee, and the 4 communities to set up public meetings

and working with governance of all 4 towns. There will be a bulk mailing going on directing people to the survey. Paper surveys will be available at all 4 town halls. The original strategic plan was drafted by 89 people and great work was done within the 2-3 days at the Arey Center. Bucksport Bay Healthy Community Coalition held their Annual Meeting last month and have hired Sarah Martin starting November 1st. Bucksport Bay works with everyone from young people up to seniors including families and hospice care. This year the Council will be giving BBHCC \$15,000 which is up from last year of \$7,400. Paul asked if Jeff McGlin has any plan to come back to the Council with an update or can someone update us down the road soon on where AIM thinks they are. Rich updated the board that Jeff McGlin met with Sue, Jeff Hammond and surveyors as they were working on separation of land between Bucksport mill and Bucksport generation. Rich mentioned that Senator King will be in town tomorrow and will be meeting with Rich, Sue & Mayor Keene to discuss where Bucksport is, where we are going, and results from EDAT tour. Also, the group will be touring the final mill site. Ron asked if we were going to ask for help from King's office. Peter said that he spoke to Sue earlier in the day and she said she had a few things she was going to ask for during the meeting which would have broad economic appeal to help getting things moving faster than they are. Rich mentioned the fact of a bond between the RSU 25 and the Economic Development Office and listed some of the accomplishments. A freshman class came during volunteer day and picked up 22 bags of leaves at Googins Park and he reached out to the principal and wood shop teacher to see if we could get on the list of projects for the kids to do and they agreed to build (8) 8' picnic tables for the waterfront. Rich handed out paperwork in regards to USS Roosevelt Museum project being proposed over in Verona. Verna Cox on Verona Island has been working on this project for over 5 years and has designs for the building. Jim mentioned a contact, Mr. Ed Webster, whose passion is researching Admiral Peary. He did a presentation at the Alamo and Jim is more than willing to reach out to him to have him speak to the passengers of the MS Fram. Rich presented paperwork in regards to the Maine Central Model Railroad currently stationed in Jonesport and is looking for a new home. The woman who owns the train can no longer maintain it, Jonesport can't afford it, and Boothbay Harbor wasn't interested in it. A local resident brought it to Rich's attention and asked him to bring it to the Economic Development Committee for consideration.

Old Business: Linda updated on Friends of Silver Lake, who have met 3-4 times and has a core group of people that are participating. They have done Volunteer Maine Lakes program and working with Maine Lakes Society and have had them come and speak. They have been to several of the Comprehensive Plan Meetings and explained how it can help Economic Development in the Town. Planning to contact all land owners around the lake this winter to see if they can get more people interested in the Friends of Silver Lake. Peter mentioned that we were 1 of 4 communities to be awarded a \$10,000 start-up grant with Axiom Technologies and EMDC.

Adjournment: Peter made the motion at 5:48pm and it was seconded by Mark.

Submitted by Rich Rotella

Next BEDC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st @ 5:00 pm

Council Chambers at the Town Office!