

Community Development Committee May 17, 2017 Minutes

Attending: Phyllis Roth, Catherine Samuels, Pete DuBrule Charles Renneker, Margaret Lindsey Sanborn, Justin McIver, Evan Miller, Carmen Lone, Ursula Flaherty

Bridgton Variety store land has been bought to be an art gallery.
Land use committee is drafting a land zoning guide handling what kind of business can go where.

Design review committee looks at what new buildings will look like.
We need better management of agendas meeting and minutes
Right now all minutes should be posted on town website.

Justin says that a microbrewery is coming to his building in the basement.
Rufus Porter Musium would like somebody to brew a Rufus Porter Porter Ale.

In the 80s some people went out and sought out businesses to come here and they did.
Justin has a list of businesses that Bridgton needs.

We have copies of the five priorities
Streetscape
Wastewater -inform people why we need a sewer system.
Use LRTV to reach Bridgton people?
Land Use committee reviewing
Need article about why we need land use ordinance/zoning
Sewer committee will need help with articles

When you manage land it is zoning says the state
We need to say what we can and cannot do on the land
Whatever is built must be compatible with what buildings are there.

What people make up Bridgton and who cares about what?
No more fast food, big box stores, chain hotels
What is best for Bridgton?
How can we present to people what we see as best for Bridgton?
Streetscape
Sewer will need funding
Zoning

We have a diverse population and we could recommend speaking at groups, clubs, and churches, in order to explain how the sewer, streetscape and zoning would affect the community.

We want to inform them as to how will it affect them.
Reach out to civic organizations and answer questions.
How they will benefit, how will be paid, and who pays.
Need to see fairness
High level of no confidence because we have no Director
Need an approach for all
Need professional and local backup together
Frame the message and then present
Maybe we should go in twos to groups' meetings to speak

Great idea to talk to people, since many don't read the paper
Is there an expert on each of the three issues?
LUC planning to reach out to groups

We need to write an article
What is on the June ballot and what is not?
Candidates night?
Ask Wayne to ask the candidates where they stand on the three issues, and then publish responses in Bridgton News.

Recommendation to BOS to retain an advertising committee to promote the sewer, land use, and streetscape

Streetscap argument
93% of tax paid by homeowners a high rate
Put in a sewer system
Hotels need sewer
North Conway did not have zoning when they put sewer
Commercial, retail, that will change & will keep taxes from going up by changing from mostly property tax to more business tax

Streetscape
Do now because you'll open a lot of the streets anyhow for sewer, so do it all now
Motion:
We recommend that the BOS

Phyllis will write a letter/article to recommend why we need the three things.
Evan's gong to talk to Wayne to get someone from the paper to interview the candidates for running for Selectman - about the 3 issues, and publish answers.

Town website -branding
Town website - Town has \$ for website, but hold off till the branding is done

What will we undertake?
Justin - recruiting businesses , young prof will help
Carmen - We need a development director
Chuck talked to selectman - all in favor of filling the position.
The manner of selection , may be changed.
Process is underway, with 14 candidates now applying
We can do better now with Town Website
More current
Consistent
Update names

Justin-Come up with a list of things to make improvements in town:

Recruitment
Hire the director
List of improvements

Organize a beautification contest

Narrow Gauge RR

Gray turned down

Peter Lowell raised money for his new school

To bring back, it needs money- BOS said he can bring back to Bridgton

Went through this before with no business plan or funding

New management of RR, Develop old school site, look like a train station and working track-
cost of a million a mile.

Peter has undertaken it and we will follow

Motion: We are supportive of bringing train back to Bridgton – Consensus – Yes

Plan for :

Facts

Question

Conclusion

Argument/Authorities

Housing

Can we get a list of existing housing?

What does Bridgton have to offer?

Would be good to have list of things to do in Bridgton.

Allen used to put 99 things to do in Bridgton every month.

Would be good to create a better relationship with the Chamber of Commerce

They represent 13 other towns and town of Bridgton contributes the most.

If we participated in the Chamber we might get mutual benefits

Issues at state level

Recruitment

Lee Eastman – Everlast roofing – as he goes around town he gets great info about town

State programs – other towns write up brochures that say here are programs

Small budget,

10 Things to do

Send Improvements to Justin - email

Friday mornings might be for meetings