

Community Development Committee Minutes 8-9- 2017

Attending: Dave Crowell, Phyllis Roth, Audrey Knight, George , Bob McHatton Sr., Carmen Lone, Catherine Samuels, Margaret Lindsey , Evan Miller, Jana Richards

Absent: Charles Renneker, Nelle Ely, Ursula Flaherty, Justin McIver, Stephen Rickert, Peter Dubrule, Martha Cummings, Bob Peabody

First issue is to elect a new chairperson.

Chuck has resigned as Chair.

Carmen is nominated and elected.

1. Update on BOS – Bob McHatton, Sr. regarding membership numbers and Alternates

2. Update on land use committee by Audrey Knight

Land use committee has worked hard for 2 ½ years, put in a lot of effort, prepared to get it on the ballot.

Audrey wants to review and has questions, some need to be reworked. Plans to work with Legal counsel according to Maine statutes

Questions zoning one area of town.

Zoning is use based and geographically based

Never been done to zone one area of town.

All town is usually zoned

Legally debatable whether it can be done

In 2011 design standards on 302 growth management to apply to other areas

Land use plan adopted as a document

Raises a level of review

Audrey has met every week for past 4 weeks with the committee

Going forward next June for a vote

Map and language for map need to go through

Wastewater system is in the plan

Some of the maps don't match up

Will Bridgton use the state GIS program – yes

3. Prioritizing new tasks

Sewer/ streetscape pending information

Land Use Zoning pending information

Jobs - attempt to wrap this up in next 2 – 3 meetings

Website – Audrey will email format and requests information by organizations that wish to be listed to submit the information to her.

Branding – Event to be held August 21st at Magic Lantern 5-6 pm

Invitations will be sent via postal service and news announcements

Updating our website

Town inclusive website - go there for all town information

Branding – 10 min film

4.Jobs

We need to wrap it up to pass it along to BOS

We'd like to have a concrete task done

Margaret thinks the jobs issue is embedded in other problems – housing –age of residents – internet high speed

Carmen agrees and feels it is a comprehensive problem

Dave – problem with getting workers with a 2% unemployment

Justin did a lot of research on what kind of businesses we would like here, how to update workforce

Justin made up an Action plan:

Margaret – there are jobs here, efind they don't have enough workers

What are the pieces that would help

Housing would be next

Audrey – what do we need for workers to come here

Current needs or top down

We have businesses that need workers

Some young people lack soft skills, a piece missing, basic skills to get and keep a job

That piece is still a puzzle, need to fill skills gaps

Margaret suggests a job trainer

What is incentive to get them to be reliable workers

May lack positive role models

Carmen -What are the big categories of the job issues?

Training

How to create new businesses – top down

Is there a gap between what businesses need and what workers need?

There are construction jobs

Can we make a job board –maybe Chamber Of Comm can make list of positions to fill

Do we need info about what issues around jobs?

Janna may have info about training

Info about primary research about jobs in Bridgton

Need an employer survey – Audrey

Audrey will develop a brief survey

Should be easy

Involve rotary? For questions and distribute?

Current #, what need is, current employers, specifics of kind of job, how they advertise

What employers have as current employment -And currently have available

Help to establish a job board

Put out the survey to Chamber Of Comm, BYP

Audrey will put together the survey and get it out

Bob McHatton talked about how he ran a successful business. Hired trained, mothers to work during school hours. Talked about other businesses and how they

hire and train. He said he sometimes had a problem with ambition of workers. Now a shortage of experts and in licensed laborers.

Carmen- jobs issues:

Job training and soft skills needed

Employer – employee gap

How employers find workers

Barriers to becoming employed

Look at past CDC minutes and jobs issues to find info that we can consolidate.

Issues we have targeted to work on:

1. Sewer

2. Land use zoning

3. Branding/website- Audrey needs info for site

Ways to incorporate that and new website

What content you want on site?

4. Housing, esthetics, availability, affordability

5. Natural Resources

Town owned properties

Town owns and uses some

Other is property that we may use in future

Town forest where Hancock cuts from according to market

Tax acquired from nonpayment generally go to auction

Look at jobs issues

Ideas for website

Role for CDC committee -make recommendation to BOS to achieve the goals recommended

Discussion about mentor programs

Possible training for running your own business

SAD 61 has several programs that mentor youth by placing them in businesses and have workplace ready programs through adult education.

Is their distance from Bridgton a problem in serving adults?

Next meeting: August 23

Future meeting dates:

Sept 6, 20

Oct 4, 18

Nov 1, 15, 29

Dec 13, 27

