

Bridgton Community Development Advisory Committee

Meeting of December 12, 2018

MINUTES

Attending: Bear Zaidman, Carmen Lone, Bob Peabody, Bob McHatton, Nelle Ely, Margaret Lindsey, Ursula Flaherty, Evan Miller, Nate Sunday, Helen Archer.

1. Last Meetings' Minutes

Minutes of the CDC's meeting of November 29, 2018 were approved.

2. Select Board Report

a) New Committee

The BOS voted to stand up a new Ad Hoc Project Liaison Committee, to coordinate with the different parties and sub-committees involved in major infrastructure projects, initially the Waste Water System and Streetscape projects, and Land Use. The PLC will act as "ambassadors" between project management and the Community, and will initiate public information efforts, including regular updates in Bridgton News. The Town Manager, Bob Peabody, will be the information "hub" for the new committee, and will post related information on the Town website.

The CDC was asked to submit names of members willing to serve on the new Committee, which will number 11-15 people.

FOLLOW-UP: Town Management was informed 01/16/19 that CDC volunteers will be Bob McHatton, Nelle Ely and Nate Sunday (as time permits).

b) Waste Water System & Streetscape Projects

- The Engineers have been asked to provide info 2-3 weeks ahead of commencing each new construction phase, to ensure affected residents can be informed in a timely manner.

- Contractors will break ground in late Spring/early summer, and light construction will begin this coming summer, to include side roads. There will be a hiatus in WW and Main Street work construction during peak tourist traffic in July and August; Lower Main St. work will continue during that time.

c) CDC Feedback

- LRTV is doing a show in the basement to explain the WW and Streetscape projects.

- CDC is concerned about the continuing lack of a Community Development Director, especially with these major projects starting soon. The salary offered is apparently not competitive, but the position has full benefits. It was noted that the

construction engineers will have a Clerk of the Works for project implementation management, and that Town Management has the expertise needed to fulfill the stringent Federal paperwork requirements for funding.

3. Community Events

Community Center organizes Christmas Parade; Lions' Club does July 4 Parade. There seems to be a publicity problem; there were no floats in the Christmas Parade. Local events are changing nation-wide; locally, Old Harrison Days has been cancelled. CDC suggestions:

- Stores stay open during event
- Change Parade route
- Set up a Town Calendar for the whole year (although past attempts have failed)
- Local non-profits that participate should "push" info to their contacts
- Find best media to reach Millennials

ACTION: Nate and Margaret will work to set up a Town Calendar, with Town support from Jerusha, and will keep the CDC updated.

4. Bridgton Hospital

- No new meetings held with CMMC; no transparency regarding their plans for BH.
- CMMC are using an article about BH from four years ago to publicize a past award as if it were recent, with banners on the grounds.
- Need to generate more press interest in what's going on; Leapfrog could be asked to re-assess BH.
- Many BH patients have been left without PCPs as a result of the BH staff exodus, and can't even get prescription refills – a really difficult situation for those needing treatment for chronic conditions. At a minimum, local residents should know what alternative care options they have; these should be publicized. CMMC's recent Forum yielded no information on other care options.
- CMMC currently only hiring temp staff.
- Need to proceed very carefully; all BH-related initiatives or actions must go through the BOS.

5. Community Development Block Grants

- CDC reviews applications related to Social Services and "bricks and mortar".
- Deadline for grant applications is Jan. 23rd.
- CDC "open mic" for CDBG applicants scheduled for Feb. 13th.

NB: Full CDBG program schedule handed out at meeting.