

Town of Bristol Comprehensive Plan Update

Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2017
6:30-8:00 pm

Attendees: Dave Parsons, Joann Rogers, Kris Monzel, Cat Cohen, Elizabeth Smith, Ron Smith, Bob Green

Absent: Donna Beretta

Guests: Nicole Cleary, Sharon Lilla

- Justin introduced Sharon and Nicole from Barton and Loguidice (B&L), the consultants that were chosen by the Town Board to assist in the Plan update
- Brief introductions and background of all the committee members were given
- All the past documents (including meeting minutes) were provided to B&L to bring them up to speed. Justin also met with them prior to the steering committee meeting to further elaborate on status, work to date, and expectations for this meeting.
- The agenda for tonight was provided by B&L and is attached for reference (bold items)
- Nicole remarked that there are a lot of good assets in the Town to work with and that a lot of good work has been done thus far by the committee
- Item 2A: vision statement – consensus from the committee that it is good to go
 - *Should it be more concise/short? No, it is good as is. If you can close your eyes and picture it [the Town], then you're good.*
- Item 2C: information gaps – does B&L need to do more where does the committee do work?
- Committee reviewed the draft table of contents as the structure to the plan – all agreed that it was good
- Community survey? How to do it? Is it still appropriate? It's not in the scope of work right now. A future public meeting (October?) is anticipated, so that would help determine whether a survey would be needed or appropriate.
- Some discussion on the overall timeframe and a second public meeting – perhaps this is too soon as all the sub groups have not met yet.
- The survey would be geared towards getting more detailed feedback on what has been gathered to date. However, there was discussion that this same effort could be accomplished at a public meeting ("this is what we've heard from you and what we've come up with, are we on the right path and what else should we be looking at?")

- Home based businesses are a vital part of the Bristol economy. A survey might be beneficial to get input from/on them, but how? Focus groups, internet survey, meeting locals, business leaders (they don't exist here)
- Three surveys from past Comprehensive Plan efforts – we would likely get the same response if similar questions were asked (i.e. thoughts haven't changed much)
- Regulations for them can be advantageous if done correctly and within the character of the Town. This is likely a general GOAL pertaining to this topic (economic development).
 - *What are some good examples of home based businesses that we have in the Town right now? Can we use them as a "model" for future endeavors?*
- How to encourage home based businesses? Rural community business incubator as a future ACTION ITEM under economic development
- Internet connectivity (or lack thereof) is a major issue with businesses > GOAL
- The comprehensive plan needs to offer reasonable solutions for addressing internet/broadband infrastructure. Sharon mentioned Wayne County as a local example.
- Bob gave a brief history on the former Local Development Corporation that existed for economic development. Once the State stepped in, it made it harder to function with the additional regulations and it folded, though it was operating successfully locally. The State is pushing a more regional approach (i.e. consolidated funding applications and Regional Economic Development Councils > more money, but much more competition)
- Ontario County has an IDA, but appears to be more focused on manufacturing. This doesn't fit in Bristol (infrastructure).
- Home based businesses in Bristol – potential for confrontations with regulations?
- The infrastructure subcommittee met in June; notes need to be compiled from that effort. Housing, recreation/parks, and community character have had a preliminary meeting.
- Format of the goal areas and such is the concern. How far down does the committee go with goals, objectives, action items? Need to get all the information first before getting to objectives/actions. Tiny houses given as an example for level of detail.
- The comprehensive plan must be more general in nature and not go into too much detail. B&L is there as a 3rd party outsider to help guide this.
- The plan needs a strong implementation section so that it doesn't "sit on the shelf." It also informs future zoning changes as well as provides background for grant funding. The goal is to maintain the tax base and grow it sustainably, so recommendations need to be tailored to this. Need to get away from a "one dimensional economy."

- Future land use > what is it? Using community input and other background, it is what the Town would like to look like in the future. A balance of taxes and viewsheds/environment.
- The comp plan puts the community in charge of its destiny, otherwise others will change it for you.
- General discussion on oil/gas extraction, solar/wind, etc. where it belongs in the plan
- How do we keep things going in this process? Framework? Information gaps? B&L will help to develop a framework and identify the gaps to address the policies/topics and determine what else is needed.
- August 30th committee picnic at Levi Corser Park – 6:30
- Next meeting – Library or Town Hall? 6:00? To be confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Steinbach