

To Do List

Sandy work on History

Sub-committees continue on topics

Notes from

July 26, 2017

Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

Present: Sandra Riker, Donna Beretta, Joann Rogers, Justin Steinbach Ron & Liz Smith

Absent: Bob Green, Carla Jordan, Dave Parsons, Kris Monzel, Cat Cohen

Minutes: The minutes of June 21st, 2017 were reviewed and approved as written to post on the Town Webpage.

Consultant: Sharon Lilla from Barton & Loguidice is unable to meet with us tonight but will be doing some pre-planning work with Justin on August 10th or 11th in preparation for the August 16th meeting at 6:30.

Update on small groups:

- Parks & Recreation-Joann and Donna met with Tom Stevens who provided them with a history of the Levi Corser Park, Pioneer Park and the newest Codding Conservation Area. Councilman Stevens (Park Commissioner) shared with them that Senator Funke was working on an opportunity for funding some repairs and upgrades for the town Parks. Specifically the monies would go toward resurfacing the tennis courts, track repair, some trail work and placing concrete slabs under the two open pavilions. He said the first step was to get estimates of what the projects would cost and to proceed from there and he will continue the process. Some of the other areas talked about the need for expansion of the walking trails, seeking opportunity for future park expansions and expanding the uses for the parks.
- Cultural/Historic Preservation-Liz shared notes from the June 28th meeting with Alan Jones, Beth Thomas, and Spence Parsons at the library. See notes taken by Cat Cohen attached.
- Transportation/Infrastructure attended by Carla, Ron and Dave used the current plan as a basis for their finds and have expanded to include energy. They have met once and will be meeting again.
- Economic Development group is forming and includes Justin, Ron, and others that have expressed interest in joining this group
- Housing is being worked on by Liz, Cat, and Kris, they are also looking at community character as part of that topic
- Sandra is working on a synopsis of Bristol history with the help of Donna Beretta and Beth Thomas. They have spent a great deal of time reading through town meeting minutes dating back to 1789 and have been utilizing the many files and folders prepared by Helen Fox (past historian). The idea for a Did you know? Section for each of the topics could be added to the final comp plan update.

Major topics: have been narrowed down to six being:

1. Environmental & Natural Resources
2. Agriculture
3. Recreational Resources with sub topics of parks & recreation, tourism

4. Economic Development sub topics being housing, tourism and business; look at what issues are causing problems with the expansion of home base business and establish this as an implementation item. Carla referenced the Town of Naples as a guide to look at, they have recently updated that portion of their zoning with the assistance of County Planning.
5. Preserve Community Character sub topic housing
6. Local Infrastructure to include Energy

If there are overlaps of the subtopics among the 6 major topics then the small groups will need to ensure that their goals are compatible with others.

Next steps: Invite speakers such as: Val Knoblauch, Mike Manikowski, and Sue Vary to assist with the Economic Development groups.

Base Camp should be utilized for sharing of documents Justin and Ron will make sure that Sharon and her assistant Nicole Cleary will be able to view and add documents as well.

Future meetings: It was not determined if the small groups would continue on with their efforts for the next couple of months or if there should be at least one or two group meetings to bring everyone up to speed and continue a forward progress with this activity. The monthly group meeting will be the third Wednesday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Riker

Secretary to the Planning and ZBA Boards of Bristol

Notes meeting on Cultural, Social and Historical Preservation, Bristol Library, 6/28/17

Present: Beth Thomas, Alan Jones, Spence Parsons; Liz Smith, Kris Monzel, Sandy Riker, Cat Cohen

Beth reported that community events continue to be posted on the town website, and now also on the Historical Society's facebook page, the We Love Bristol facebook page, and the Bristol Library website. Promotion also takes place at Brews and Brats.

In addition, a newsletter is emailed to residents who have signed up as members of the Historical Society, in Bristol and South Bristol.

Need: *Database of residents' email addresses so all would be able to receive the newsletter. This would also make it possible to reach out to the community when volunteers are needed.*

A survey was sent out to all residents in Bristol/South Bristol (about 4,000 addresses). Between 60 and 70 responses were received. Topics of greatest interest were: Native American history / genealogy / history of house/barn. Unfortunately, not many joined the Historical Society.

Beth also mentioned that feature articles on the history of area towns will be selected for publication in the Genesee Valley Pennysaver; she has submitted several articles so far.

Work on the preservation of historically significant sites continues. Burning Springs is listed in the NY State registry right now, and will need to be listed in the National registry. Alan reported that various other sites should be listed as well, e.g., Congregational Church, Baptist Hill Church, Vincent Hill Cemetery.

There are many sites in the area where Native American artifacts have been found. Alan mentioned that between 6,000-10,000 artifacts have been uncovered at the Footer site (pipes, tools, ceramics etc.) and are now stored in a RMSC warehouse. He also said that many colonial artifacts are stored in his garage.

Need: *Volunteers to help sort and catalogue artifacts.*

Later in the meeting there was mention of many other interesting artifacts that may be in residents' homes, attics, basements.

Need: *Reach out to community to be on the look-out for such artifacts.*

Many records, documents, as well as diaries dating back to the 1700s are presently stored on the second floor of the Town Hall. This is not a safe place for such valuable and irreplaceable items since there's no temperature control and it's not up to code (fire hazard!).

Need: *Safe storage space, and/or equipment to digitize the documents.* Unfortunately no grants are available for buildings—just for the preservation process (technology, special folders, etc.). Beth has written a grant proposal for \$98,000 to this end.

Need: *Volunteers to help digitize the documents.*

Beth mentioned upcoming area events celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's voting rights in New York. A number of suffragettes lived in Bristol, where they formed the first women's equality club. (It is thought that Harmony Circle may be a remnant of that club!) Sophia Allen, the vice-president, is buried in the Bristol Center Cemetery. A book is due out in October with information about suffragettes, including Emily Parmely Collins, the president of the women's equality club, who lived in Bristol and eventually moved to Connecticut.

Need: *Continue to create awareness of this important part of our history, through website postings, presentations, etc., possibly in collaboration with the Bristol Library.*

Alan reported that the Bristol and South Bristol Historical Societies have now merged, although funds will be kept separate, and they have separate structures. The Society will be able to have tax-exempt status (important for donations). Presentations and events can be shared.

If possible, presentations should be audio- and/or video-recorded, to be posted on a site where the public has access.

Need: *Audio/video equipment (grant).*

Later in the meeting there was mention of more collaboration with other area historical societies, through the Small Historical Society Group.

Plans are underway to make Bristol Center Church a site where organists can rent the space to play the organ (to be installed by Parsons). One organ has already been moved there. Minor work will need to be done, but the basic structure and foundation of the building are in good shape. An addition will need to be added with a bathroom and a handicap ramp. This should not jeopardize its historic registry. In future the church could even become a small wedding venue.

Need: *A grant application will need to be made to cover various costs, once the Bristol/South Bristol collaboration is fully in place and tax exempt status has been achieved.*

Mention was made of various historic homes, farms, and cemeteries. Beth said that the \$98,000 grant would cover the creation of an interactive map that visitors could use as they go on a driving tour of area sites of interest; boy scouts to be involved in creating more signage.

Need: *Outreach and promotion. Dandy's may be willing to post a wall map and info.*

The history of Bristol's families between 1800 and 1850 shows that many packed up and moved west, including to Ohio. Their descendants often have great interest in uncovering their families' history and travel to Bristol to do research. Unfortunately, the town historian cannot charge for her time in helping them (or any local residents) in their research since she is a town employee.

Need: *Volunteers to help visitors with their genealogical research, possibly in the library. Fees to benefit the Historical Society.*

Throughout the meeting we talked about the importance of recording the oral histories of the oldest residents in Bristol so their memories may be preserved and passed down to future generations. It would be of great benefit if middle- or high-school students could be involved in at least part of this process.

Some books written by local residents already exist and are available in the library (e.g., Verna Allen Tilton and Ruth Allen Campbell: *Memories of the Bristol Hills*; Mark Allen Campbell and Ruth Allen Campbell: *Country Living in the Bristol Hills*; Pat McKee: *My Time and Space*).

As some of the older residents are no longer in good health, it is an urgent matter to get started on an oral history project. Names of some residents who would be good sources of information:

Dorothy (?), Edie Thomas, Elaine Bird, Sharon Miller, Dianne Marcellus, Joan Hall, Alan Jones, Ron Goodman, Bob Green, Dave and Spence Parsons

Need: *Volunteers and audio/video equipment, to interview residents and record oral histories. Volunteers will need to be trained.* [I found some information on the internet that may be of help—e.g.:
<http://www.oralhistory.org/about/principles-and-practices/>]

Cat Cohen