Policy Area - Community Character, Facilities, and Services

Policy Statement:

The Town will ensure that our much-valued community character is preserved and enhanced. Facilities and services will continue to promote the well-being of our community and the cultural, social, and historical preservation of the town and its heritage.

Objectives:

A. Promote and support Bristol's cultural, social, and historical organizations.
B. Continue preservation of historically significant sites.
C. Ensure that municipal and other public facilities continue to function safely and adequately.
D. Promote easy access to local and County health and human services.
E. Promote and support civic engagement and community building.
F. Promote town government efficiency and inter-municipal & regional cooperation

Actions:

1. Continue to post information about Bristol's organizations and local events on the Town website. Ensure easy one-place access to information on Town website.
2. Identify appropriate space where members of the community can gather and where civic organizations can host meetings and special events.
3. Promote and coordinate efforts to acquire space for use by civic organizations for safe storage of historical documents and artifacts. Promote the sharing of resources among these organizations.
4. Increase the volunteer base for various civic organizations by posting requests and updates on the Town website.
5. Preserve local oral histories by coordinating a public informational meeting, posting public updates on Town website, and lending support as needed throughout the planning and implementation of an oral history project.
6. Support and assist in verification of registration status of historically significant sites on the NY State or National Register of Historic Places. Create, and update, a listing on the Town website of individual sites and their status.
7. Support and assist in preserving at-risk historic sites.
8. Encourage each municipal and community organization to perform a conditions survey to identify deficiencies and areas for potential improvements.
9. Identify and pursue grants and other funding sources, where feasible, for any critical improvements to municipal and other public facilities.
10. Continue to provide adequate funding for the Bristol Library, the Bristol Volunteer Fire Dept., and the Bristol Hills Historical Societies. Support and promote the functions of these organizations. Coordinate funding with South Bristol as needed.
11. Continue to provide links to local and County health and human services on the Town website.
12. Expand information available on Town website by including a listing of handyman services.
13. Support and promote outreach programs as needed, including local health fairs and informational presentations on specific health topics.
14. Coordinate the creation of a welcome-packet for new residents/business owners/landowners. Information should include important contacts and reference to the Town website, as well as an invite to attend Town Board meetings. Useful local and county resources should be listed as well, specifically with regard to safe maintenance of water wells, septic systems and other important aspects of rural living.
15. Encourage businesses and other contacts to update information provided on the Town website on a regular basis.
16. Provide regular e-newsbriefs about upcoming meetings, events, and volunteer opportunities in the Town. Invite residents to sign up on the Town website to receive these newsbriefs. Share information with outside social media platforms such as the We Love Bristol facebook page.
17. Provide multiple ways for the public to make suggestions and comments, including the use of suggestion boxes at the Town Hall, in the Bristol Library, and at Levi Corser Memorial Park.
18. Organize an annual Open House where residents can interact with neighbors and meet with members of the three municipal boards and with representatives of local civic organizations in an informal setting.
19. Post draft agendas for Board meetings on the Town website prior to meeting dates, along with supporting materials, when available. Draft minutes should continue to be posted in accordance with Town law.
20. Create a list of rules and regulations the Town has established with regard to Board meetings, workshops, and public hearings. Post listing on the Town website.
21. Continue to identify avenues for sharing of services, equipment and materials among Bristol, neighboring towns, and Ontario