

Bucksport NEXT Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 1, 2018 at 5:45 PM
Bucksport High School Library
Facilitator/Scribe: Rob Carmichael

Attending: Linda Plourde, Patrick Cough, Jef Fitzgerald, Hans Krichels, Margaret DeRivera, Jeanette Tardif, Jeff Bellows, Tom Gaffney, Nick Tymoczko, Jennifer Fortier, Jason Mitchell, Joe McElwee, Paula Kee, Jim Boothby, Mike Ludwig, Milissa LaLonde, Rob Carmichael

1. Introductions
2. Rob gave a brief history of Bucksport NEXT: “How did we get here”. Goals of the group include:
 - Enhance coordination*
 - Avoid duplication*
 - Share resources*
 - Build enthusiasm*

The town hosts a Bucksport NEXT web page with a link for each group at www.bucksportmaine.gov .

Hans manages the Facebook page which is also linked from the Town web site.

3. Jef shared that the comprehensive plan has been, and will be used. The group being spotlighted will change over time. Bucksportmaine.gov is the website with much info.
4. Group Reports:

ADAPT (Mike Ludwig) – an EPA funded a planning grant developed to assist economic development will roll out mid-October. Jef spoke to how the comprehensive plan and ADAPT plan will work together. Hans commented about how it would have been nice if many groups could have worked into the comp. plan but the timing just didn’t work.

RSU 25 (Jim Boothby) – the school system serves four communities with K-Adult education. Whole Oceans mentioned 27 different skilled jobs associated with fish farming. RSU 25 is willing to collaborate on multiple levels including workforce training in Adult Education.

Wednesday On Main (Paula Kee) – a summer event program in its 4th year sponsored by Darlings, the town of Bucksport and many others. The schedule may change due to lulls in August. The mostly musical events provide a mood elevator. Attendance has improved each year.

Bucksport Heart & Soul (Milissa LaLonde) – We are transitioning to a Stewardship group whose mission is to maintain the momentum of BH&S, encourage networking and collaboration among groups, support groups adopting 1 or more of the 82 citizen ideas for action and assist with money and volunteers. Some of the ideas currently being realized are: mountain bike trail construction in GPMCT lands, Wed. walking club,

waterfront book walk for children, summer Saturday read-aloud with ice cream. Hans discussed the amazing data generated by H&S and ways in which this data is being used around town.

YMCA (Nick Tymoczko) – “Improving quality of life from cradle to grave”. The Y has been in Bucksport for a year and a half and has established a leadership program with RSU 25, community outing clubs, unique recreation ideas, cross-country ski trails and children’s camps. There is a need for volunteers and staffing; for example, a snowmobiler who is willing to break trails and helpers in the various programs. The Y strategic plan was already built for us by BH&S.

Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition (Tom Gaffney) – a 24 year old organization begun by Betty Billings and Jeannie Grindle, who also started the Bucksport Regional Health Center and Bucksport Community Concerns. The group uses Asset Based Community Development developed by John McKnight. We may offer training on ABCD. The group compared the 82 citizen ideas gathered by BH&S and its own ideas and found 48 in common. There will be an annual public board meeting of BBHCC on Oct. 30. Jeff Bellows mentioned that much of what we do is regional and we must not forget communities and resources outside of Bucksport. Jeanette added that BBHCC is a volunteer advocacy organization reaching out to partner with others who have a mission of health.

Friends of Silver Lake (Linda Plourde) – the mission is to protect the lake quality and benefit to Bucksport during this transition period, as well as wildlife. We hold an annual Loon count, do water quality testing, attend the annual Emergency Action Plan flood plan meeting held by AIM. Concerns are phosphorous levels in Silver Lake, aquatic invasive plant threats and maintenance of the dam. Meetings often include speakers and a November meeting will include Landon Fake from Great Pond Mt. Trust.

Economic Development Committee (Linda Plourde) – we haven’t had a recent meeting but the focus is to work with the ADAPT plan and broadband planning.

Patrick Cough is a concerned citizen who has a special interest in trails near Silver Lake. He initially wanted a walking path along the lake, then thought that Miles Lane trails could be connected with Silver Lake at the boat landing. The conservation committee thinks this might work.

Whole Oceans (Jen Fortier, Jason Mitchell, Joe McElwee) – here to listen and learn about Bucksport and its groups and culture. Three areas of interest to Whole Oceans are; Workforce Development, the physical property and the seafood aspect. The company is working with area colleges, tech centers and RSU 25 to meet the workforce skill needs. It wants to create signage, trails around the farm and educational programs for the public. Ten years worth of salmon has been presold and the company hopes to have food tastings and there may be processing opportunities. Jen is willing to speak to groups. Jason spoke about how impressed he and colleagues are with the community collaboration of Bucksport. They feel the positive energy of the community. “Many

agendas help create THE agenda”. Jen said that Kate Dickerson from the Maine Science Fair may have a pop-up event in early November.

Margaret DeRivera of Orland and H.O.M.E. coop discussed traffic problems on the Castine Road. Someone offered that the Bicycle Coalition of Maine might be able to help.

Rob discussed future NEXT leadership and facilitator needs. All agreed that Rob should continue as facilitator but Jef and Hans offered assistance with scheduling and publicity. Jim Boothby offered continued use of the high school library. It was decided that NEXT would hold 4 meetings per year at the BHS library from 5:45 – 8:00. Other groups that should be invited are the Garden Club and H.O.M.E. Coop.

Paula Kee suggested creating a central volunteer network site in which groups post their volunteer needs with a job description, and people sign up. It could be added to the town website. Positive response.

Paula also suggested having a profile book at the town office. Each group would have a profile page with its mission and contact information. Positive response.

Discussion followed regarding the need for a community calendar. The upper left corner of the town website is where to find the Bucksport NEXT website and Facebook links.

Milissa announced two upcoming Bucksport High School Alumni events at the Alamo. At 6:00 on Oct. 15 and Nov. 5 six alums (3 each night) will present unique and/or impressive accomplishments and take questions from the audience. A reception will follow.

Milissa suggested that a few moments of “networking” time be added to each Bucksport NEXT meeting. Jim Boothby suggested a 5:45 chat time followed by the formal meeting at 6:00.

It was decided that Bucksport NEXT will not have its own projects, but will rather be a place to meet, share and collaborate.

Next NEXT meeting TBA.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Milissa LaLonde.

