

# Bucksport NEXT Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 5:45 PM

Bucksport High School Library

Facilitator/Scribe: Rob Carmichael

In attendance: Ron Russell (MSB, economic development), Leslie Wombacher (BBACC), Alecia Smith (BBACC), Nick Tymoczko (YMCA), Jef Fitzgerald (Comp Plan), Michael Locke (Friends of Ft. Knox), Mike Gross (RSU 25), Colleen Gross (BBACC, Heart & Soul), Hans Krichels (Comp Plan, BN photographer & Facebook admin.), Jim Boothby (RSU 25), Jen Fortier (Whole Oceans), Brook Minner (MSB), Rob Carmichael (Town Council), Dawn Elaine Danforth (Historical Society & Healthy Communities), Rich Rotella (Town of Bucksport) and Patrick Cough.

Also- Paula Kee submitted a *Wednesdays on Main* update via email.

Linda Plourde submitted a *Friends of Silver Lake* update via email.

1. **Welcome:** 5:47 PM
2. **Introduction** of participants
3. **Reminders** of organization purposes and community goals and visions
4. **Organizational needs:** Appointed note taker
5. **Minutes of January 8 meeting:** (not discussed) minutes from previous meetings are approved by consensus and available at the Bucksport NEXT web site.
6. **Group updates:**
  - a. Bucksport Bay Area Chamber Commerce: Leslie distributed blueprints and discussed the fundraising campaign for the purchase of the building they occupy. Planning a scavenger hunt in May that highlights the various things available in our area businesses. The Bay Festival has a new coordinator, Nathalie Arruda, and planning is underway with headlining act Motor Booty Affair.
  - b. YMCA: Nick told about gifts of white water kayaks, canoes and equipment to the Y and asked for more donations to help expand this program. Working with Economic Development to assure that canoe and kayak rental will be available locally to the public for use at the riverfront and lakes. Improvements to the Silver Lake boat landing area are in the works. He is now planning summer camp, boating & camping trips and the leadership program is underway.
  - c. RSU 25: Jim mentioned the RSU is always looking for affordable housing for new staff, partnered with YMCA for a 21st century grant for extended school year and summer programming. They got \$220,000 a year for 5 years. The robotics team is heading to the world championships and this will require fundraising. There is also a bottle drive for donations set up at Bucksport Redemption & Feed on Main Street. Yard sales are being considered. Bucksport High School students each have a 40 hour requirement of volunteering to graduate so contact Jim to connect with young volunteers.

- d. Whole Oceans: Jen said they are on track to close May 1 on the property and will have a ground breaking ceremony thereafter. Details TBA. Development of the site must be carefully planned considering the fish that will occupy it soon. For example, all blasting must be done before the fish arrive. The final project site plan is expected soon. Three new position were recently announced including an on-site manager and 2 in Portland. WO will be releasing drone videos of the area on its website and social media, Jen is still available for presentations, usually about 20 minutes of basic info plus Q&A.
- e. Historical Society: Dawn said that are completing an inventory of the collection and hoping to complete building renovation including a possible new foundation closer to Main Street. They are planning a house tour on the same weekend as the Arts Festival. Rich notes that the plans for the Historical Society building will be presented to the Town Council on April 25.
- f. Healthy Communities: Dawn continued, saying they are working to bring back the “Thriving in Place” program that allows seniors to stay safely in their homes. BBHCC is also working on road/highway safety, they have available office space in someone needs a small meeting (Nick T. also has a key and can help with this). The group is also interested in installing netting on the Narrows Bridge to prevent suicide attempts in conjunction with Kim Rosen.
- g. Town Council: Rob added that the Council is aware of the pothole/road issue and is discussing possible options for repair and long term improvements.
- h. Friends of Fort Knox: Mike reported that the Park Clean Up Day is on April 27 from 9am-5pm (lunch included) for the May 1 opening. They are planning a “historical society day” Tuesdays this summer featuring “Passion Presentations” similar to an open mic and free to participate. Thursdays will feature cultural arts performances, moon viewings & ghost tours coming back, first Saturday in June the Owls Head Transportation Museum is bringing between 50-100 cars, Michael handed out a list of all 2019 events planned at the fort, Friends of Fort Knox offers affordable business memberships that allows members to put their brochures in visitor center (seen by over 100,000 people per year) The new website was launched and the visitor’s center is available for small meetings
- i. Main Street Bucksport: Brook recapped the “Bridge the Gap” race of last weekend, told about the planned downtown clean-up day, Jonathan Buck 300th birthday party, museum in the streets, Flash In the Pans concert , and the annual arts festival.
- j. Plastic Bag Usage: Hans relayed a message from a local environmental education group and made its informational handout available to attendees. The group may want to join Bucksport NEXT as a participant. It is promoting an initiative to ban single-use plastic bags from Bucksport businesses. This is also one of the 87 goals of Heart & Soul.
- k. Wednesdays on Main: (Jef) Paula sent a list of the events for 2019 and posted them on the Chamber website. There are new sponsors and always room for more.
- l. Friends of Silver Lake: (Jef) The annual water clarity testing and loon count will happen this summer. Any volunteers may contact Linda Plourde for more info.
- m. Comp Plan: Jef indicated that there has been good progress on zoning in the Industrial and Resource Protection Districts. Now we can begin to look at downtown zoning issues (can work with MSB on this).

**Presentations:**

Community and Economic Development: Rich shared that MMA will be at the planning board next Tuesday for their site plan review and they expect to close within 45 days. After. At this time no cruise ships are lined up for Bucksport but we had a similar situation last year and we ended up with 11. We will be selling diesel at marina this year and hiring a third marina person. Rich has met with interested businesses over the past month looking at several available properties recently. Bolt Fabric opened on April 1, Port O' Call will open by the end of May, Greenhead Lobster held a recent open house at Local Variety and handed out applications, ADAPT implementation committee is working with MSB to apply for Quimby Family grant to begin phase 1 of the waterfront walkway park improvements. There will be a webinar tomorrow if anyone is interested called "Time to Move from Events to Activities".

Volunteer! Jef Fitzgerald discussed the creation of a clearing house for volunteer opportunities. Jef has linked to existing member sites from the B NEXT page. There are currently several specific and some general volunteer needs described. The site can be found at [this link](#).

**7. Conclusions and NEXT steps**

- a. Could someone create a site or something else list available meeting space? *Jef will add this like the Volunteer! web page.*
- b. Can Heart and Soul publicly share how many of their ideas have been accomplished?
- c. Can one of the roles of this group be to summarize what's been accomplished in recent years in an ongoing way like the poster Brook and Paula put together?
- d. Ideas for next meetings: highlighting history and accomplishments of each group, impacts they've seen, etc.
  - i. Rob encourages this group to consider ideas that we would like to push to the Town Council
  - ii. Sharing ideas of interesting initiatives happening in other communities, Jef mentioned keeping the seafood theme in mind
  - iii. If you think of agenda items for this group, please send to Jef Fitzgerald. Also send volunteer opportunities and meeting space opportunities.

**8. Next meeting:** Tuesday, July 9, 5:45pm (by invitation) **at Verona Wine & Design!**

**9. Adjournment:** 7:10 PM

*Minutes: Prepared by Brook Minner and augmented by Jef Fitzgerald.*

