



## Bucksport *NEXT* - October 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 – MINUTES

Present: Rob Carmichael (Facilitator/Scribe), Mary Jane Bush- Sue Davis, Linda Plourde, Richard Campbell-State Rep and Penobscot Maritime Heritage Association, Chris Johnson, Colleen Gross, Hans Krichels, Milissa LaLonde.

### REPORTS:

Richard Campbell and Colleen Gross for: **Penobscot Maritime Heritage Association.** This group is planning a major boating event, with a 4-Port Loop involving maritime vessels-mostly sailboats for Maine's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The event will run from July 9<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and will include the towns of Bangor, Bucksport, Searsport and Castine along the Penobscot River. Bucksport's Bay Festival will be re-scheduled to coincide with the event. Richard and Colleen envision a broad range of on-shore activities, including collaborations with the Historical Society, Fort Knox, Penobscot Nation, and various towns along the river. The event will be funded by grants and fundraising activities. Colleen envisions a parade of boats up the river to Bangor. The hope is that this event will be an ongoing annual event similar to the National Folk Festival.

Colleen Gross for: **Bucksport Area Chamber of Commerce.** Colleen reported on upcoming Ghostport events. Help is needed with the Trebuchet. There are three entries to date for the coffin race. The Chamber itself continues to look for a new home; their current building has been sold.

Milissa LaLonde for: **Bucksport Heart & Soul.** Milissa reported on an upcoming Old Fashion Social to be held at the Lighthouse Gallery October 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be similar to the block parties originally orchestrated by Heart & Soul in Bucksport and will be an opportunity to showcase for newcomers the various projects and initiatives currently underway. Milissa also reported on an initiative in the formative stages at the moment. A small group, headed by Gina Bushong, is looking into launching something similar to Senior College in Bucksport. Courses are already offered in Belfast and Ellsworth, but Milissa and Gina are hoping to recruit teachers for courses right here in Bucksport. Hans mentioned the high praise Bucksport's H&S program received at the Heart & Soul national convention in Vermont last month.

Mary Jane Bush and Sue Davis for: **Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition.** Mary Jane reminded all present that **the Town of Bucksport** is a member of AARP's Network of Age Friendly Communities, which promotes

quality of life in eight areas, ranging from housing and transportation through communication, education, civic engagement, social inclusion, to community health services. The town is collaborating with the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition's Senior Resource Committee to serve as the leadership team for the town's Age and Ability Friendly initiative. Mary Jane points out that, since the launching of something called the Show You Care Program, sixteen businesses have upgraded their wheelchair access. Colleen pointed out that new access ramps are now under construction at Verona Wine & Design. Additionally, some teams are already at work dealing with emergency preparedness in the event of cataclysmic events. Finally, Mary Jane reminded everyone that **BBHCC** will be holding its annual meeting on Tuesday October 22 at the High School Library. Our Town manager, Sue Lessard, will be outlining strategies regarding housing, transportation, health and other areas concerning quality of life for our aging population.

Sue Davis for: **BBHCC**. Sue underscored the need for more help for our "aging demographic". Discussion followed concerning something called the Thrive in Place program and the dearth of housing for middle-income families.

Linda Plourde for: **Friends of Silver Lake**. Linda reported on generally positive conditions around the lake – including an unusually high loon count this year. Areas of concern involve run-off from the road near the cemetery and many unanswered questions regarding dam and water rights. As for the Emergency Action Plan, AIM has not yet filed its annual report. Linda also mentioned concern about the deteriorated condition of the aquaduct from Alamoosook Lake. Finally, Linda announced that she will be stepping away from her role with **Friends of Silver Lake**, and she would like to recruit new members to take her place.

Chris Johnson for: **Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust**. Chris reported that the Trust's recent Adventure Race was a great success, with fifteen teams participating and lots of young people involved. He reminded people of the various trail runs coming up in the weeks ahead and the work of Emily Carvalho, in charge of Explore Outdoors programs in the community. They have made great progress with digitizing all records and have a new software package for managing donors and membership. Membership is pretty stable at this point.

**General Discussion** followed concerning the role and purpose of Bucksport NEXT. Hans pointed out its history and its usefulness as a group of groups in town and a forum for sharing ideas and resources. Rob mentioned its usefulness as a conduit between the various groups and the Town Council. Linda suggested that

the meetings inspire groups to meet their goals and report results. Milissa pointed out the beauty of the meetings as an opportunity to share and receive information. All agreed despite recent changes in personnel and roles, to continue with quarterly meetings.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. 5:30 at the High School Library. All groups welcome. More contact information to be announced soon.

Meeting summarized by Hans Krichels and sent on to Rob Carmichael for audio verification and additional information.