**Meeting Minutes**

**Bremen Town Center Project Committee**

**Date:** December 4, 2018

**Location:** Bremen Library

**Meeting Leader:** Mary Voskian

**Attendees:** Jane Carroll, Joan Ray, David Thorpe

**Apologies of Absentees:** Daniel Ungier

**Guests:** Kevin Redline, President of Board of Trustees, Bremen Library; Joe Vitti, Bremen Resident

Meeting began at 5:30 p.m.

**Agenda**

**Introductions:**

As this was the first meeting of the Project Committee the attendees all introduced themselves.

**Background of the Bremen Town Center Project Committee (BTCP) – Mary Voskian**

Mary reviewed the background of the project explaining that she is on the Board of the Bremen Library. The Library aims to provide more services to the community. An initial project was to improve the Children’s Area. When that was completed, they realized it would be good to have a children’s play area outside. As the Town of Bremen owns the land, the Bremen Conservation Commission could take on this project. A Sub-Committee was formed to explore the possibilities. This Committee will propose ideas and plans, will then share this information with the Bremen Conservation Commission, and the Selectmen and citizens will make the final decisions.

**Old Business:**

The Town suggested the Committee apply for an Ask Grant from Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission to engage a planning consultant for the project. Mary Voskian wrote the grant. The maximum award is $2000. The Town received $1500, the maximum awarded in this period because of the large number of awardees. Additional funds were obtained to meet the $3800 needed for the consultation.

Three firms made proposals and Travis Pryor of Wright-Pierce was chosen as having the best fit with the goals and previous experience with parks. The contract is now fulfilled, and a Memorandum and Town Center Improvements Concept Plan has been submitted.

There was a kickoff meeting in July with the Bremen Conservation Commission, some library trustees, and town staff representatives. A community survey was conducted. Two community meetings were held in September and October, and well attended Some individuals who did not attend the meetings have emailed Mary Voskian and she has responded to them.

The Concept Plan is available on the Town website, has been sent to the Town email list, is available in Town Hall, and has been described in an article in the Lincoln County News. We are making every effort to keep citizens well informed.

**Children in Bremen**

Mary reported on the number of children in Bremen there are: 61 K – 8 children at Great Salt Bay School; 27 9 – 12th graders at Lincoln Academy; 23 Homeschoolers; 6 at Coastal Christian Academy. For a total of 117 youth. Birth records show that from 2013 – 2018 there were 28 births recorded in Bremen. Of course, we can’t know if those children are still here.

**Discussion of Memorandum from Travis Pryor following the final workshop on October 30, 2018**

The play area is the project that has come to the top of the list. There is enthusiasm for making this the first project. The Library Board had talked about a multi-generational recreation area. They believed there are grants available for such projects. This led to a discussion of grant eligibility (see below.) There is a difference between what attracts people to use the area and what can be used to enhance the park. One or more central attraction is needed to get people to come, suggestions include: a sandbox shaped like a lobster boat, a decommissioned lobster boat as a play center, exercise stations on paths, story boards. Funding is available for accessible playgrounds, but it is not clear if this is the place for it, or if there is enough need. The sledding area already exists and would be easy to develop further. People are already using it. It was suggested we could plan a Library sponsored winter sledding party to launch the projects.

It was noted that a noticeable flaw in the plan is consideration of parking, and it needs to be addressed. The Library has limited parking, and recreational users cannot park there during Library hours. There is space on the grass for overflow parking. It was also noted that one or two spaces could possibly be added to the Library parking.

We discussed modifications to the plan, e.g. changing viewer seating to “potential viewer seating.” We will see if Travis can send the plans to Kevin. He has a program that will allow the committee to modify the concept plan drawing. We also determined we could see if Travis could modify the plan for a small fee once we have finalized the plans.

As the plan is to fundraise for this project there was a discussion of eligibility for philanthropic gifts. The Town owns the land. In order for individual gifts to be eligible for a tax-deduction the gift must be made to a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization. Donor-advised funds can only make gifts to IRS-qualified public charity. And most grant-making organizations only give to non-profits. It was suggested that at times a fiscal agent can be set up to accept donations, or a 501 (c)3 status can be structured. This issue needs to be explored in more detail.

**Next Steps:**

Mary Voskian to update Bremen Conservation Commission and Bremen Selectmen

Discuss with Travis Pryor how other towns have handled funding/fundraising

Talk with Town lawyers/accountant, if appropriate at this time

See projects at

Damariscotta River Association Whaleback Midden

Pownalborough Court House Dresden <http://www.lincolncountyhistory.org/PCHAboutTrail.html>

Medomak Valley Middle & High School (completed on a low budget)

Meeting adjourned at7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Carroll

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Bremen Library**