**Bremen Town Center Project Meeting Notes; October 1, 2019**

**Attending Members: Elaine Milardo, Joan Ray, Joe Vitti, Mary Voskian**

**Attending Guests: Jane Carroll, Mary Berger**

Meeting minutes approved from August 27, 2019

Mary announced that Jane will be leaving the BTCP Committee but will be assisting her privately with fundraising.

Joan reported on her research for possibilities for the play/recreation area. Joan stated that she can not determine what to use specifically because she is not an expert but can provide some guidance. She recommends the committee procure an expert.

Joan listed possible ideas for the play/rec area based on the book “Nature Play at Home” by Nancy Striniste but stated that this should be developed for various age groups and possible incorporate music/sounds in the concept.

Here is a list Joan provided: Logs or balance equipment, utilize the hill and provide a slide, swing(s), sand, consider climbing trees ie, apple trees, welcome entrance way, scent/touch gardens ie. pollinator gardens, provide items to kids to “check out” of library when open and then “recheck” in before leaving such as storyboards, plant shrubs that turn colors with the seasons, insect hotels which could attract bees or other insects, toad hotels in garden areas, use trees to climb in if town owns trees in wooden nearby area, boat to climb in, Rocks (from Wendy possibly), weaving art (ie seaweed, twigs, yarn),

Joan will provide a detailed document with her ideas to the committee.

There was discussion regarding asking parents within the community about the types of equipment their children might be interested in using.

Jane had concerns about the need to provide someone to “maintain” the play/rec area each day. Elaine agreed with Jane. Elaine brought this up in a previous meeting and provided an extensive guideline regarding building playgrounds and maintenance of them. Jane gave an example of ensuring the sandbox was clear and that all equipment would need to be checked by someone on a daily basis. She mentioned that possibly someone from the library might be able to do this task. Mary V. pointed out that the library relies on many volunteers and that would be taxing on them. Others in the group stated that maybe the committee should consider going with equipment that might not need to be checked every day and may only require seasonal maintenance verse daily maintenance.

Some members of the group also discussed not providing bathrooms due to maintenance factors and to encourage visitors to bring their trash home and not provide trash cans for on site disposal.

Some discussion centered around not naming the playground due to the fact if someone donated monies and to name objects and things like benches instead for large endowment gifts. The group stated that due to the fact the residents of Bremen are hesitant about increases with property taxes to sustain the concept plan, the goal should be to apply for grants and to look into possible donations.

Mary B. mentioned her visit to Hog Island recently and thought use of wind chimes or bells might be good theme for an entrance way into the play/recreation area. Others commented on possible entrance way ideas. Elaine commented providing and hanging “reach bells” for sound which simulated the sounds of “buoys” used in waterway channels because they are simplistic.

Elaine mentioned that Doug Meservey volunteered to meet her at town center on Thursday afternoon to stake out the septic system from the town center building. This is key in determining the “available area” that the committee has for a play/recreation space.

Budget ideas: There was discussion regarding the proposed budget amount of $10,000 or $15,000 as a proposed budget. This money would include the cost of the pavilion. Per Mary V., Kevin said he would look into getting a discount on lumber and building supplies from local businesses.

Jane mentioned that she believes the pavilion must be included in the initial concept plan budget and that this structure is a “key” budgetary component. Elaine agreed with Jane’s theory. Jane is willing to assist in writing a grant for $15,000, which would come from **Libra Foundation** and the committee would raise another $5,000 towards the initial proposed budget. Jane also commented and indicated that a typical Libra grant is for at least $25,000 and advised the committee to go for that full amount verses $15,000.

Discussion also centered on Coastal Rivers as the official 501 c (3) sponsor of the concept plan. Discussion was centered on how this would actually work when funds were received. Apparently when Coastal Rivers receives funding for this committee, they would turn that money over to the Town of Bremen. Coastal Rivers acts as the fiscal agent for the BTCP because a 501 c (3) has to be the “fiscal agent” for this plan verses the Town of Bremen.

Other discussions were towards having a campaign effort to raise money with a possible goal of $35,000.

The committee also discussed the possibility of checking the Lincoln County Register of Deeds to inquire about the Town Center property and if there have been land surveys. Jane stated that land surveys are very expensive and someone else suggested checking adjacent owners properties to see if their land had been surveyed to ensure property lines were accurate.

New Business:

Septic System issue; had been discussed earlier and that Elaine would be assisting Doug Meservey as he officially staked out the Town Center Septic System leaching area.

Ask Grant; Mary V. was finishing up the final document and will submit the official Ask Grant October 2, 2019. The hope is that the committee would procure the full $2,000 grant.

Further plans are in the works for possible fundraising efforts.

2020 State of Maine Bicentennial: Military Musical Group: Joe inquired with the Marines and asked if they would be interested in coming to the Bicentennial event that is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2020. Joe reported that the Marines would require sleeping quarters if they were to attend the Bremen event. Joe will inquire with the National Guard in Bangor.

Other ideas for Bremen event: contacting some area High School bands or jazz bands or other local groups to see if they would be interested in providing music.

Other committee members stated that it would be wise to check other August events that were going on such as the official date of Bristol Days (some believe is scheduled for August 15, 2020.) as well as other surrounding communities (checking with Chamber of Commerce) to ensure there are no conflicting dates with the tentative August 8, 2020 date.

Ann Stires to come for meeting on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 10:00 am to view the site and meet with thew committee. The BTCP Committee meeting will commence following the meeting with Ann Stires.

Due to winter months coming up, the meeting time will be changed back to 5:30 pm.

Submitted by Elaine Milardo