

**Brighton Smart Growth Grant Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
November 17, 2008

Meeting attendees: Rebecca Buerkett, Tom Huber (PSC), Diane Litynski (PSC), Holly Huber, Diane Leifheit, Leslie Karasin (WCS), Sheila Delarm, Steve Tucker, Betty Scott, Pat Willis.

1. Progress report – Rebecca

a. CBN Connect meeting

Rebecca met with Julie West to discuss telecommunications planning initiatives by CBN Connect. Ms. West told me that there will be state wireless telecom implementation grants available at the end of this year or early 2009. We may be able to partner with CBN and other neighboring towns to pursue a grant for a wireless transmitter at the ADK airport. Julie will attend an upcoming board or committee meeting to present information on CBN Connect's activities.

b. Brighton Seniors meeting.

Rebecca met with the Brighton Seniors (including the Reverend of the Presbyterian Church) to discuss concerns and needs. Pat Willis submitted a list of concerns. Affordable housing is a major concern, as is transportation. Bringing in industry that will provide year-round employment is an issue.

c. APA telecommunications session

Rebecca attended the telecommunications session at this month's APA meeting. More information about the upcoming grant solicitation was presented.

d. Paul Smiths College meeting

Rebecca met with representatives of the Paul Smiths College sustainability committee to discuss sustainability issues in Brighton. Committee members included Andy Eagan and Tom Huber. The committee believes that long-term sustainability depends on industries that are not seasonal, but that provide jobs year-round and are not tourism-based. A wood pellet plant was put forth as an example of a viable sustainable development project.

e. Father Kelly meeting

Rebecca met with Father Kelly of the Brighton Church of the Assumption (Catholic Church). He expressed hope that Camp Gabriels could be kept open and much concern if it closes. He echoed concerns of others that year-round work is needed, and feels that the VIC and nature-oriented tourism, such as birding, could be capitalized upon.

f. Land Use Mapping

Land Use Mapping has begun. F.X. Browne, Inc. and WCS are coordinating their mapping efforts to avoid duplication of effort.

g. ADK Climate Conference at Wild Center

Rebecca wasn't able to attend this meeting but Steve Tucker went. He said that the efforts begun at the conference to develop a sustainability plan for the park will extend beyond our project. We will keep tabs on their efforts in order to determine ways to incorporate their findings.

2. Old Business

a. Brighton business list

Rebecca collected the business lists from stores and post offices. Rebecca will update them and we will solicit more business information from the survey.

b. Transition Town

No update given.

c. Survey

Rebecca handed out some draft survey questions. It was determined that the questions should be grouped by category, and that many of them need to be reworded or simplified. We decided to send out a paper survey but give residents the option to take the survey online. All paper surveys received will be entered online so that all results can be tallied by SurveyMonkey. Diane Litynski and Leslie Karasin will provide Rebecca with some information about designing survey questions. It was also recommended that some focus groups or neighborhood meetings may be appropriate.

3. Paul Smiths College Sustainability Committee

Tom Huber and Diane Litynski discussed the possibility of a pellet plant in the town of Brighton, in particular as an alternative if Camp Gabriels closes. Paul Smiths College is working on their own biomass facility and is most likely not interested in building a pellet plant in Brighton. Although the APA would most likely approve a pellet plant in the town, a small pellet plant would have a hard time competing with existing plants in Massena and elsewhere. The best bet would be to find an interested entrepreneur that would pursue working with Finch Pruyn or some other larger established forestry product business to develop a plant.

Tom recommended contacting NYSERDA to find out about energy efficiency programs that could help residents save money and make it more affordable to live here.

4. Next meeting – December 15, 2008

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebecca Buerkett