

Frank Crouse

From: Frank Crouse <crousefr@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 1:18 PM
To: 'Bill Fountain'; Joe Colaianne (jcolaianne@hartlandtwp.com)
Cc: Barbara Walker (BarbaraWalker@HartlandInsurance.com); Helen Micallef (dhmicallef@hotmail.com); Doug Kuhn (deepdigger@yahoo.com); Tom Parshall (tom@imcproducts.com); Dick Krueger (rck4450@Aol.com)
Subject: HBA - Status and Progress
Attachments: HBA_HARTLAND WORKPLAN - DRAFT 2018_03_17.pdf

Joe and Bill –

Here's another copy of the email I sent on May 23rd. I have an HBA meeting later this afternoon – and since I've not received a response, I wonder if either of you could provide me with a status report from your point of view. I of course will have to make a report on progress of our collaboration with the Township.

Thanks for your attention.

Frank

Gentlemen

We last met regarding the Hartland Business Association on 3/17/2018; I thank you for setting up that meeting. Doug Kuhn, Tom Parshall, and myself were encouraged after our meeting with you.

All parties seemed to think the project was worthwhile – that there were opportunities for Hartland to become more business friendly. While not getting into details, we reviewed our working definition of “business friendly”. At the end of the meeting, we provided you with what was described as a “Potential Workplan”, dated 3/17/2018. A copy is attached.

What was provided was a DRAFT proposal, which was intended to serve as a basis for further discussion. It had been my hope that you would review that plan, and that a follow-up meeting would occur to decide upon something mutually agreeable. I believed that together we could develop a collaborative approach, allowing us to quickly identify areas where changes could enable progress toward a stronger and healthier business Community in Hartland. On the basis of that meeting, I reported optimistically at our April membership meeting that the Township had formed a powerful committee and that we might expect a high level of cooperation with Hartland Township.

Unfortunately, at our May meeting I could only report that we had heard nothing further from the Township. At least some of the opportunity for collaboration may be slipping away; I say this because presumably the Planning Commission is continuing its review of Hartland's regulations – possibly without any change in guidance from the Township's Board of Trustees.

Merriam Webster defines collaboration as **“to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor – such as an international team of scientists collaborated on the study.”** (This of course is the positive definition of collaboration – the alternative definition involves traitorous conspiring with an enemy – certainly not applicable here). I believe we need to meet to agree on a project upon which we can collaborate! We need to define measurable objectives, and benchmarks along the way that will define progress and eventual success.

While we may or may not agree on politics, at the federal level it is being demonstrated that over-regulation and high taxes are bad for business – as measured by growth, profitability, and employment. We might even agree that it is being demonstrated that when these taxes and regulations are reduced – growth, profitability and employment can return. Is it possible that we could unleash as least some of the positive force in the Hartland business Community, by selectively reducing regulations without necessarily affecting health and safety? A reasonable study of the surveys of business condition (as evaluated by Hartland’s businesses) demonstrates that this may be possible. Perhaps we can establish goals – possibly the goals might be simple – such as those at the federal level requiring elimination of two regulations for every new one enacted (I’m told they are achieving 10 times better than that). Our task may not be as simple as that, but we won’t know unless we begin. One way or another, we need to have goals – so the results will be real and measurable. I believe we want the change to be serious, so that results will be apparent in the next round of business surveys.

Please pass this on to the other members of the Committee (Larry, Kathy, etc), and let me know about possible dates for a meeting.

Regards,

W. Frank Crouse