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NEWS

Pocock and farmers market are returning to Bristol

January 26, 2023

By Marin Howell

BRISTOL — Folks in the 5-town area in and around Bristol have a lot to look forward to, as two well-loved community events are slated to return this summer. The Bristol CORE organization is preparing to bring back the town's Pocock Rocks music festival and street fair, as well as reestablish the Bristol Farmers Market.

Bristol CORE is a nonprofit organization committed to maintaining the economic vitality of downtown Bristol. The group has been busy this month with preparations for the two community events, planning for which Bristol CORE Executive Director Alicia Standridge said is still in the preliminary stages. Standridge noted community members have already begun to show interest in the return of the farmers market.

"All the responses have been excited and positive. Quite a few vendors have reached out, though we'll have to finalize some more details before we open up applications," she said.

Standridge noted the town hasn't hosted a weekly farmers market in around eight years, and that Bristol CORE did not play a role in organizing past iterations of the event. The opportunity to start the farmers market up again is one Standridge said she had hoped to be a part of and is excited to help spearhead.

"I enjoy event planning and that's something I bring to the executive director position," Standridge said. "I'm passionate about Bristol having more community activities, and I think the farmers market is a great way to do that."

Tentative plans call for the Bristol Farmers Market to be held on the Bristol Town Green on Monday afternoons, 4-7 p.m., and run June 5 through Oct. 9. Bristol CORE is looking to hear from farmers and makers interested in vending at the farmers market.

POCOCK ROCKS

Bristol CORE is also working to bring back the town's Pocock Rock music festival and street fair, which has been on a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The event is named in recognition of the original name of Bristol, which was chartered as Pocock in 1762. The town's name was changed to Bristol 25 years later.

The festival has featured music from various local and Vermont bands and musicians, and fills Bristol's Main Street with vendors of crafts, wines and spirits, and specialty foods. Standridge said she expects this year's event to be just as packed as previous years, which have featured more than 30 vendors in addition to a handful of performers.

"(Bristol CORE) gets submissions for music acts throughout the year so I have no doubt that we'll have stages filled. Same with vendors. It's a pretty popular event," she said.

A tentative date of Saturday, June 17, has been set for the festival, which will run from 3 to 9 p.m. Standridge said this year's Pocock Rock festival will largely resemble past events, though Bristol CORE welcomes community feedback on what residents would like to see at the event.

"As of right now it'll be the same. Depending on different factors we could add more events such as more children's activities. We're open to suggestions," she said.

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