

Andrew Johnson Bequest Suggestions

Date	Name	Type	Suggestion	Status
12/23/2018	Cecil Foster	A. Johnson Scholarship	With that interest money create a scholarship for High schools students who are pursuing further education. Remember to honor Andrew Johnson.	
12/23/2018	Dave Sharpe	Benefit Everyone	Remember all Bristol residents, including people who live outside the village. Think about benefitting everyone.	
10/27/2018	Elizabeth Lewis	Bristol Elementary School Programs	<p>My name is Elizabeth Lewis, and I am a local bristol mother of two young sons, as well as an active community member including my recent role as the Treasurer of Friends of BES VT, a parent teacher organization of Bristol Elementary School. Our goal is to raise funds for our youth at BES and support the community, teachers, staff, and be a voice between parents and the school, producing youth that are ready to engage in a positive way with our community, and who are the future for all of us. One of these aspects is trying to help fund programs that are incompletely or not funded by the state or local level for our kids. This includes field trips, long standing nature science program Four Winds, after school programs BASK and ELP, teacher support for supplies and appreciation, and previous PTO group funded getting AEDs and water fountains at the school. We would like this coming year or two to potentially also include funding a speaker on bullying prevention (the speaker we have in mind had a son commit suicide as a result of this which is only too common today, and he speaks nationally and is excellent), and possibly working with the school to fund some lead testing and remediation if necessary. NPR just published a report that 16 VT schools tested for lead had issues with it in the water, and it's not that expensive to test and some simple measures can be taken if needed to make our kids safer. Unfortunately, the state won't fund this so it's not in schools budgets to do, so other funds like from our group would be needed. The children at this school are the future of our community and would love to get more information from you or meet with you regarding if part of these funds might be donated to the school community, either through our group or in another manner. I also thought that perhaps a trust in the name of Andrew Johnson that the school could draw on for unfunded or partially funded programs each year would be a way to make his legacy last if that is something you might consider.</p>	
11/5/2018	Charlotte Sullivan	Business Start-Up Grants	Allow the funds to be used for a grant cycle for residents of Bristol who have start-ups and want to keep their business in VT	
12/23/2018	Sally Burrell	Button Up Public Buildings	All public municipal buildings need to be "buttoned up".	The Bristol Energy Committee is currently researching this.
11/5/2018	Tasha Ball	Committee	I want to be part of a committee, if one is formed, to make the decision how this money is used.	
12/23/2018	Patty Heather-Lea	Committee	Take our time. Create a committee that makes the final decisions about the use of the \$100,000. Collect more ideas from the community. We need to figure out ways to reach the maximum number of Bristol residents.	
11/5/2018	Charlotte Sullivan	Community Resource Center	Convert one of the empty store-fronts into a community resource center of some kind (so there could be a space to work in town when the library is closed, a place to meet to talk with people that isn't a bar or restaurant, could be rented out for events, readings, other evening activities)	

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12/6/2018	Cameron Segal	Cycling Without Age	I wanted to submit an idea as to how to allocate funds from Andrew Johnson's estate. Living Well Group became the first Cycling Without Age affiliate in the state of Vermont this year and have secured funding to bring the very first trishaw to Vermont at our Burlington location. I am confident that a trishaw would be perfect for Bristol. Our Bristol campus, Living Well Residence, has a barn big enough to store the trishaw and we feel it would be a great location in town. The trishaws allow for intergenerational engagement between volunteer pilots and passengers. Our residents would benefit, but so would the rest of the town. The bike would be accessible for children, adults, elderly, and folks with disabilities. The Cycling Without Age philosophy would fit seamlessly in Bristol based on the town's community-based vision. I've attached a document providing more information about the program and benefits for the town.	
10/8/2018	Dave Sharpe	Electric Charging Station	I would suggest a electric car charging station. With GMP subsidy and state grant program this should cost the town very little and be a draw for our retail gift shops and restaurants.	The Bristol Energy Committee is working on a grant-funded charging station
10/19/2018	Jono Chapin	Endowment - Conservation	I think it would be wise to consider a portion of it to put in some sort of endowment/ reserve fund to eventually be used for the conservation/purchase of the development rights of future properties that would be shown to benefit the townspeople. In fact, many larger towns already have such funds and even have ways to generate a stream from a small half penny tax to build such funds up over time. The conservation commission would help to determine what appropriate properties would be considered and could work with the VT Land Trust to complete projects. Having such a fund and the money on hand to act swiftly when the right properties become available is to have the foresight to selectively choose green spaces that are of great significance. In this way I think that Andrew Johnson and the Johnson family would see this as in keeping with the connection with the land that they have always had through the lumber mill.	The Town of Bristol has a Conservation Reserve Fund that currently has a balance of more than \$38,000.
9/30/2018	Sharon Compagna	Forest Use/Preservation	His life work was in lumber mill work. Perhaps the \$\$ should go for our forest preservation.	
12/23/2018	Ian Albinson	Grant Program	Make grants available of \$5,000 or less. Use the idea of big impact to our community and at the same time using smaller chunks of the gift.	

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10/3/2018	Carolyn Dash	Grant Program	I propose setting the fund aside and allowing Bristol citizens, town commissions, town departments, the rec club, etc. apply for grants of, say, no more than \$10,000 that could make meaningful changes for the town. For example, if the library could get a few thousand dollars, they could install a digital projector and speakers to host community-wide movie nights (much like the Reel Film Fridays, only easier to set-up and they could show a wider range of modern movies). Another example could be helping fund the Bristol Trail Network as they improve the hiking trails at Memorial Park. Or renovating the town website. Or new plantings on Main Street. I envision some type of grant application process, whereby the citizens of Bristol could submit applications to the selectboard who could then choose to fund the projects they feel would do the most good for the town for the least money. The beauty of this idea is, there is no rush to hand out all the funding. Maybe, a few years from now someone will need money for a fantastic project that will benefit the town. There is no deadline for handing out the money. You could even fund several projects a year, at no more than \$20,000 total, and keep this money on the table for the next 5 years. That way it could be sprinkled around encouraging new projects for years to come!	
12/23/2018	Brian LaClair	Grant Writer	The town could hire a Grant Writer and be paid through the AJ fund. Hiring a professional Grant Writer would bring in more money in the long run.	
9/30/2018	Sharon Compagna	Historic Preservation	Perhaps a small amount of the \$\$ could go toward the Historical Society for preservation of our lumber history.	Bristol CORE is currently exploring a Certified Local Government Program (CLG) that supports historic preservation via grants.
12/23/2018	Ian Albinson	Holley Hall Audio-Visual Upgrade	Some of those grants could: continue the audio-visual upgrade in Holley Hall . . .	
12/23/2018	Ian Albinson	Improve Howden Hall	Some of those grants could: improve Howden Hall ...	
12/23/2018	Ian Albinson	Improve Town Web site	Some of those grants could: Improve the town website . . .	Ian Albinson is currently working with the town administration to updated the town website.
12/23/2018	Ian Albinson	Improve Trash Cans	Some of those grants could: get trash cans that work . . .	
10/8/2018	Craig Scribner	Invest - Use Returns Only	I believe it should be invested in mutual funds and only the interest used each year or save multiple years for a specific item or project.	
11/5/2018	Jim Peabody	Invest - Use Returns Only	Or investing the money and making small grants from the returns.	
12/23/2018	Cecil Foster	Invest - Use Returns Only	Invest the \$100,000 and use the interest.	

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12/23/2018	Peggy Chatelain	Local Renewable Energy	Bristol would benefit using local renewable ways of heating and using electricity.	The Bristol Energy Committee and a subcommittee of the Planning Commission are exploring these opportunities.
12/23/2018	Peggy Chatelain	Long Run Vision	It is very important to have a future vision for our town of Bristol, thinking about what could help us in the long run.	
11/5/2018	Sarah Wylie	Main Street Sauna	I want to let someone know that I have been wanting to create a sauna center on Main St, a place for locals, and people from "foreign parts" to socialize, relax and become more healthy. If that is an interesting idea, let me know and I'd be happy to explain it better.	
10/8/2018	Lauris Chamberlain	Main Street Sidewalk	would also suggest rebuilding the brick curb on Main Street. Happy deciding.	Town received a \$100K Downtown Transportation Fund grant toward this project. Engineering is out to bid. Construction is estimated fall 2019 or spring 2020.
10/8/2018	Mollie German	Mount Abe Renovations	I think the funds from Andrew Johnson would be best served for use at updating parts of Mount Abe, as the schools of our community are an integral part of our future.	
10/8/2018	Dan Frizzell	Mount Abe Renovations	I feel it should all go towards Mount Abe. It's well known that the school is in bad shape and through voting efforts for repairs have failed, the work MUST be done. Ventilation, new PA system, an elevator for the MS ... those are things the might be covered by this donation.	
10/8/2018	Alicia F.	Mount Abe Renovations	I'm writing to suggest putting the money into Mount Abe.	
10/11/2018	Maura Donnelly	Mount Abe Renovations	Given Mr. Johnson's participation on the school board and his commitment to equity, I would like to suggest that the monies he left the village be used to upgrade Mt. Abe high school to make it more accessible to all in the five towns.	
10/10/2018	Donna Fox	Paving	Complete the paving of the Lower Notch Road. That will save money every year since it will eliminate grading the road.	
10/10/2018	Donna Fox	Paving	Repave West Street and have it done by an experienced company that will do it right.	Vtrans has this paving project scheduled for 2020.
11/5/2018	Steve L'Heureux	Paving	How about putting it toward fixing the Pavement from Bristol Rock to the High School entrance?	Preliminary design plans have been completed.
12/23/2018	Patty Heather-Lea	Promote Legacy Donations	Whatever is decided, invite other residents in our town to make their own legacy donation, to our town, before they die.	
9/30/2018	Sharon Compagna	Recreation/Community Center	Would be a great boost to the new Rec. Dept. building that would benefit our children, which I think the family would approve of.	
10/8/2018	Marie Dion	Recreation/Community Center	Bristol is ripe for Community/Senior center....could that money get us a down payment?	

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11/5/2018	Bunny Daubner	Recreation/Community Center	Impact as many people as possible. Give to the Rec. Department that reaches out to our community. Create a community building which would house the Hub, possible Senior center, clay studio, . . .	
12/3/2018	Betsy Almeter	Recreation/Community Center	Recreation Center to include a gym with enough space to play pickleball and have Tai Chi - places where retired people can do indoor activities during bad weather, as well as indoor and outdoor space for people of all ages to gather and play games/activities to promote health and well-being.	
12/23/2018	Meridith McFarland	Recreation/Community Center	Make a recreation center that would include a clay studio, the HUB, gym space with a full court, senior center, and an outdoor space. Options for ways to carry out these ideas: Use the Rec. Club and work together. Use the horse rink land and build there. Ask the town to vote on this budget. We would need a bond vote.	
12/23/2018	Sally Burrell	Recreation/Community Center	The Recreation Center has a "make your own " space.	
12/23/2018	John Kromer	Recreation/Community Center	I know we have been talking for some time about putting together a Community Center here in town which would bring together all of our generations under one roof in the spirit of unity, mutual respect and camaraderie, which to me, are the very cornerstones of what our town has come to be to me and I'm certain to many others. So let me just throw this out there - The A. Johnson Memorial Community Center - A place where we can have our HUB Teen Center - our Pottery Studio - class/conference room(s) for gatherings, meetings and Educational classes and offerings for Adults and Seniors - we can draw on several local resources to help us set up a curriculum including Vt. Adult Learning, The United Way of Addison County, CSAC and Building Bright Futures just to name a few. The Community Center I envision will bring all generations of our five-town community together under one roof!!	
10/9/2018	Sharon Bushey	Reduce Taxes	Why not put it to reduce taxes.	
11/5/2018	Shawn Laurie	Reduce Taxes	How about we do something everyone in town could use and put the money towards the town budget and lower our property taxes?	
12/23/2018	Sally Burrell	Renewable Energy for Public Buildings	All public municipal buildings get their electricity from solar or other renewable sources. (Look at what Starksboro has done.)	The Bristol Energy Committee and a subcommittee of the Planning Commission are exploring these opportunities.
12/23/2018	Patty Heather-Lea	Renewable Energy for Public Buildings	Invest in solar energy to help with the electricity usage of any municipal building. Can our town save money doing this? Can we re-invest our savings to impact more people in our town?	
11/5/2018	Jim Peabody	Revolving Loan Fund	Andrew would, I think, want to see a sustainable use for the \$100,000 rather than a one-shot project. Perhaps a revolving loan fund for worthwhile projects.	
12/23/2018	Peggy Chatelain	Revolving Loan Fund - Energy Efficiency Improvements	Create a revolving fund to help Bristol residents "button up" their houses. Have the interest be very low or nonexistent.	
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11/5/2018	Richard Hertz	Ski Lift to Bristol Cliffs	I suggest building a Ski lift from the water tower to the top of the Bristol cliffs. This would be a great feature for the town and produce year long revenue as well as tourist dollars pouring into our wonderful small business. The lift and the ticket sales could be run by our seniors at Mount Abe as a class on running and learning about small business. The impact to the environment would be something to discuss but I don't think it would be a large impact.	
11/13/2018	Beth & Larry Place	Solar Panels	Count us as two more who wholeheartedly support Louise's idea to install solar panels with the generous gift to Bristol!	The Bristol Energy Committee and a subcommittee of the Planning Commission are exploring these opportunities.
11/13/2018	Cindy Jiang	Solar Panels	I also agree with the idea of using the gift for community solar infrastructure	
11/13/2018	Sally Jenks Roth	Solar Panels	I love the idea of solar panels for the town. I think the old landfill cannot be used for a certain amount of time, I don't remember how long, since it has to fully settle before any structure can be put on it. I already suggested it and that's what I was told.	
11/11/2018	Louise Brynn	Solar Panels	I have a fabulous suggestion for the generous donation from Andrew Johnson. An array of Solar Panels located SW of the high school in the sealed Cassella landfill. And or to the North of Mt. Abe In or old landfill. The panels could power the school and other town	
11/13/2018	Rita Elder	Solar Panels	I just responded positively in Front Porch Forum to Louise Brynn's idea for using Andrew's gift for energy for the town, probably in the form of solar collectors to be placed on the site of the old dump. I think this is an especially good idea and would like it to be seriously considered by those making the final decision.	
11/13/2018	Linda Cormany	Solar Panels	Hello! Recently, in FPF it was suggested that the gift money from A Johnson be used for solar panels to power the town of Bristol and possibly the high school. They could be installed where the old landfill was or in the fields surrounding that area depending on who owns the land. This would be a great way to maximize on natural energy for our town, make a long term investment and save money. Please share with the Select board for them to consider as a viable option for the use of the AJ gift.	
11/13/2018	Wendy Carter	Solar Panels	I would like to add my voice of agreement with the suggestion from Louise Brynn, that a very good use of Mr. Johnson's gift to Bristol, would be to install solar power at Mt Abe. I will also suggest installing at BES as well. It would be a gift that continues to benefit taxpayers for many, many years. She suggested installation on the site of the landfill, but I wonder whether it can be put on top of the buildings, eliminating the need for long distances of cable run.	
12/23/2018	Dave Sharpe	Solar Panels	Use solar panels, possibly on the roof of the skating rink that could be finished. That energy could be used for any municipal building.	
11/14/2018	Cathy Smith	Solar Panels/Wind Power	I would like to send my support along to you regarding Louise brynn's suggestion of solar/wind power . My husband, daughter, and son-in-law, all long time Bristol residents are major advocates of renewable energy and I sincerely hope the residents have a chance to weigh in on the use of this very generous gift. Thanks for listening	

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10/8/2018	Kim Callahan	Student Community Service	I believe that the funds from the estate of Andrew Hohsin could be used to start and maintain a community service requirement for all Mt Abe students. This would bring our students into our five towns and teach our youth the importance of community service. As was indicated in Andrew Johnson's obituary. This is a gift that will continue to give and give and give as our young people stack wood, shovel driveways, comfort a lonely senior, mentor a younger person, volunteer at our libraries and churches and towns. A perfect use for this money!!	
10/8/2018	Jim Burt	Town Green Fountain	I love our park in the village and I think the fountain looks great though just a little plain. I'd like to see the money go into the park for a new fountain and better looking barriers across the back and maybe some trees planted in his memory on the park.	
9/30/2018	Sharon Compagna	Trails	A small amount of the \$\$ could go toward the new Trail Around Bristol	The Bristol Trail Network (part of the Bristol Recreation Club) and the Bristol Conservation Commission recently collaborated on the development of the Coffin Factory Trail off of South Street. The BTN has obtained and/or is in the process of obtaining grants and landowner permissions to establish new trail segments from the Lord's Prayer Rock Park to the Stoney Hill commercial park off West Street. The BTN is also in the process of improving the trail system at Memorial Park.
10/8/2018	Mark Gibson	Trails	my vote would be to put it towards the trail network or bike lanes - though i suspect there isnt any room for bike lanes	
11/5/2018	Anne Wallace	Trails	Work on forest trails around Bristol	
11/5/2018	Bunny Daubner	Trails	Support the trails around Bristol	
11/5/2018	Diana Clark	Trails	Handicapped accessible path.	
11/13/2018	Jim Stapleton	Trails	<p>At their Nov 8 meeting the Conservation Commission discussed various suggestions for using the Andrew Johnson bequest to the town. The Commission asked me to submit the following to you for consideration by the Select Board.</p> <p>History: Due to misunderstandings and conflicts in the past, the A. Johnson company has a long-standing policy of not allowing towns, hiking clubs, etc. to publicize trails located on their property, although they generously allow the public to walk there. Thus the Recreation Club's recently developed Network does not include Bristol's most popular hiking trail, whose head is at the end of Mountain Terrace.</p> <p>Suggestion: Designate the trail to the Bristol Ledges as the Andrew Johnson Memorial Trail; Erect signs (paid for by bequest monies) along the trail with various messages - identify the man and his largesse to the town; inform the hikers of their obligations to the landowners; educate the community as to the values of a working forest; include the trail in the Bristol Trail Network.</p> <p>Benefits: Honor the memory of a Bristol citizen whose generosity has enriched the town, its residents, and their guests; inform & educate the hiking public in the sense above, expand the BTN with a premier trail.</p> <p>Prospects: If all parties engage in this project in good faith, our discussion at the Conservation Commission suggested A. Johnson may be willing to negotiate their position on publicizing this trail.</p> <p>I see this as a win-win-win in the sense of a public/private/non-profit cooperative venture.</p>	
12/3/2018	Betsy Almeter	Trails	Bristol Trail Network	
12/23/2018	Meridith McFarland	Trails	Multi-use trails around Bristol, including horseback riding	

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12/23/2018	Dave Sharpe	Trails	Make the Bristol Trails Network common knowledge to Bristol residents.
11/5/2018	Diana Clark	Tree House	Handicapped accessible tree house.
10/8/2018	Lauris Chamberlain	Trees	My suggestion is to replace trees that hindered the new sidewalks.
10/8/2018	Marc Werner-Gavrin	Trees	Well it was certainly generous of Andrea Johnson! I'm a firm believer that beautiful trees make a beautiful village and I have noticed that a lot of trees are going down and our village trees are getting a bit thin. I would love to see some of this bequest be used to plant trees in the village. Thanks for considering this.
10/10/2018	Kathleen Benjamin	Trees	I think it should stay in a fund to replace the trees in the village. When trees are removed and or die it would be nice to be able to replace them. That way generations to come could benefit from his generous gift.
12/3/2018	Betsy Almeter	Trees	Plant street trees, especially to replace those taken down in the last few years. Prune/preserve/protect existing trees. Work at Bristol becoming a Tree City, USA.
12/23/2018	Cecil Foster	Trees	Create a revolving fund for planting, and pruning trees along the streets in our village.
11/11/2018	Louise Brynn	Wind Turbine	Another thought was a Wind turbine for electric energy. With NRG in Hinesburg, they could give helpful information.