



TOWN OF BRIDGTON
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July 2017 Report



July....hot, humid, sunny, beach/pool, suntan lotion, sunglasses, sandals, shorts and tank tops, summer rain and evening thunderstorms, yard “sailing” and so much more! July is also a time to celebrate Independence Day on July 4th which commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 declaring the thirteen American colonies as free and independent states. Celebration on the 4th is signified by FIREWORKS, parades, barbecues/picnics, concerts and other ceremonies and events. Celebrate our freedom not only on the 4th but every day!!!

BRIDGTON CELEBRATES..... Bridgton celebrated 250 years (1768-2018) with a “Birthday Bash” celebration on July 7th. It was a gala, well attended, event. Also on that day, The Bridgton Historical Society presented a framed print to the Town of Bridgton which shows notable infrastructure in town and its history. The print is on display in the lobby of the Town Office and additional prints are available by contacting the Bridgton Historical Society at 207-647-3699.

PERSONNEL.... Two positions were open for candidates to apply, **Community Development Director and Executive Secretary**. Interviews were held on both positions with the Community Development position being re-advertised and **Jerusha Murray** being hired to fill the position of Executive Secretary. I would like to thank Jerusha for accepting the position and welcome her to the Town Office. Her official start date will be Thursday, August 2nd.

TOWN OFFICE....with the addition of employees comes the need for space to accommodate them. The upstairs meeting room is used for smaller meetings with the larger meetings such as Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, etc. now being held downstairs. We decided to create two **cubicle offices** in the upstairs meeting room. One office will be for the new Executive Secretary and the other office will be just a “floater” office for now. There is still room for smaller meetings.

COUNTY WORKERS....the county workers came to Bridgton for a few days to do some outside clean up. Unfortunately, we don’t have any inside work to be completed right now so their work in Bridgton is weather dependent. They were scheduled for a week, however, it was a rainy week but they worked in the rain cleaning up and raking a couple of our beaches. We also need to schedule their time in advance which makes it difficult because of outside work.

WOODS POND....On Friday, July 6th, late in the afternoon, I was notified by an individual who had experienced feeling ill after swimming at Woods Pond Public Beach. They were

checking to see if we had any other reports which at time I did not. Before the end of day I received a call from CDC who was notifying me that a number of people contacted them saying that they were not feeling well after swimming at Woods Pond Public Beach. A large number of people also contacted the Bridgton Water District with reports of feeling ill. The Town immediately closed the Beach to swimming until a cause could be determined. We took test samples of the water on Monday and transported them to the lab. The beach water tested below the acceptable limit and water taken from the bathroom sink, even though signed to not drink the water, tested above the acceptable limit for drinking water. So being proactive, the beach was reopened to swimming, the sink was removed from the bathroom, hand sanitizers were installed and a beach testing protocol was put in place to test all of the public beaches during the summer until labor day. CDC concluded that the reason for the illnesses were *“several individuals tested positive for Norovirus. “As of 7/19/18, epidemiologists have identified 97 people who reported being ill and were associated with this outbreak. Our epidemiologic investigation found that people who put their heads under the water while swimming or swallowed water while swimming were at greater risk for infection. Of note, there were several people who were not at the beach who became ill after caring for someone who was ill.”*

VANDALISM...Every year the town makes improvements to our infrastructure and improvements or additions within our infrastructure for the enjoyment and safety of our citizens and visitors. In the above paragraph I mentioned that we installed hand sanitizers in the Woods Pond bathroom. These were ripped off the wall and shoved down the toilet. Also, some of the siding was ripped off the new public bathroom at Salmon Point. Public Works personnel takes time to install these and do repairs. Unfortunately when something like this happens the taxpayers bear the cost of re-purchase or repair and money and time that could be spent on something else is used for repairs. This is very discouraging and I am asking that if you see anyone damaging public property in any way please take the necessary time to **REPORT it!!**

Till next month...

Respectfully submitted.

Georgiann

Georgiann M. Fleck, Deputy Town Manager



The American flag
is the symbol of our freedom,
national pride and history.

- Mike Fitzpatrick

HAPPY
4th Of July