

Bridgton Community Development Advisory Committee
Meeting of January 23, 2019
MINUTES

Attending: Carmen Lone, Bob Peabody, Bob McHatton, Nelle Ely, Margaret Lindsey, Ursula Flaherty, Evan Miller, Nate Sunday, Helen Archer.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Last Meetings' Minutes

Minutes of the CDC's meeting of December 12, 2018 were approved, with the request that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance be added to these and future CDC Minutes.

3. Select Board Report (Meeting of Jan. 22nd)

Bridgton Economic Development Marketing Analysis Study:

BOS awaits the requested contract for the study from Ryan Wallace of USM. The Town Manager reassured BOS that there were no funding conflicts with the CDD salary, should the position be filled, and that funds would be available to cover the study.

New Project Liaison Committee:

The CDC has submitted names of its designees, and applications are underway with the BOS. More applicants are needed for the PLC.

4. AARP/WHO Age Friendly Community Program Presentation

After a presentation of this program made at their request, discussion revealed that the program had been presented to the BOS in November 2018, and had been rejected for Bridgton. Therefore, the CDC could not take it into consideration or make recommendations regarding adoption of the program. However, given Maine's demographics, the CDC concluded that some of the best practices and program components mentioned in the presentation and ensuing discussion could be germane to Bridgton's future development, including:

- The need to keep elder needs in mind when considering development projects (Streetscape, community facilities, etc.)
- The availability of grants for age-related improvements
- The need to take into account the specific needs of senior citizens when considering medical care issues in our community, and in plans to change or improve them

- The ability to attract developers specializing in senior housing to Bridgton.
- Seniors constitute a tourism demographic that could be valuable for Bridgton (for example, we could develop cruise ship passenger excursions to our area).

Other related points discussed:

- Walter Riseman, Independent State Representative, is working on a Bill to facilitate Aging in Place in the House; progress with this Bill should be tracked, as it may open up capabilities that will complement plans to improve medical care access.
- All related plans or actions should be tied in with the USM study, which will give a clearer picture of Bridgton's current demographics and their economic status and impact.

5. CDGF Review

The CDC was briefed on its citizen-review role and responsibilities in this program, which covers both bricks and mortar projects, and social service needs. Grant applicants will be given an "open mic" opportunity at the CDC's next meeting. Exact funding figures are to come from the Town Manager and his staff. The CDC must complete its review and return its recommendations to the BOS in time for the Feb. 22nd BOS meeting, when grants will be allocated.

6. Bridgton Hospital

An update was given by the CDC health care liaison regarding recent activities by the Pondicherry Group and the LRCA Sub-committee. It was noted that Bridgton will be left with a single GP/Internist, Dr. Erinn Wright, as Dr. Paul is leaving. The BOS will host presentations by CMMC and the Pondicherry Group at its next meeting.