 **TOWN OF BRIDGTON**

 **DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

 **March 31, 2020**

**General**

 The **Town Office** remains closed to the public with some staff working remotely and a core group of employees at the office. Emails and phone messages are being monitored constantly. We continue to assess the situation and make necessary changes to reduce the risk of exposure to the employees and the community. We plan on reviewing our status prior to the projected opening date of April 6th. Updates will be provided via our website and Facebook. For additional information on other municipal buildings and services please refer to our website. Friday, April 10th is the deadline for filing **nomination papers** with the Town Clerk.

Governor Mills has implemented an Executive Order today for “all persons to stay home except to participate in essential activities” which Town Manager Peabody will review with you.

 **Job Opportunities**

There is an immediate opening for an **Executive Assistant** to the Town Manager and Deputy Town Manager. This is a full-time position to assist in daily administrative duties. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Further information including a job description is available on our website.

**Bridgton Community Development**

The **Community Development staff** is working remotely but still available by phone or email. You can contact Linda LaCroix at 207-595-3560 or by email at llacroix@bridgtonmaine.org In the coming weeks a virtual meeting will be scheduled to discuss options for building out connectivity in Bridgton. The meeting will include local, county and state officials, vendors and residents with first order of business to discuss technology options and service models. Please contact Linda if you are interested in being including in this initiative. We are also working on restarting Community Development Committee meetings.

**Bridgton Recreation**

Gary Colello, Recreation Director is reminding the public that it is very important to stay **physically active** for at least 60 minutes a day. **Summer program**s are open for registration. It is likely the Town will not be able to fill all of the **lifeguard positions** this summer since most spring certification courses have been cancelled. **Pen Pal with Bridgton Rec Staff**. Tyler Bretton, Recreation Programmer, and Gary, would love to hear from you to tell them all the great things you are doing! Simply send an email to rec@bridgtonmaine.org and in the first line indicate who you are writing to and they will respond! Preliminary planning has begun for an **Easter egg scavenger hunt** to get people actively involved yet keeping in mind the physical distance…more to come.

**To Close**….I realize this has been and continues to be extremely difficult for many people in various ways and we don’t know how long this isolation will continue as businesses reduce their services and even close. It is important to realize that although right now it seems bleak there is always an end to the beginning. We are not the only ones that are feeling a sense of loneliness and therefore people are getting creative so take advantage of this opportunity to turn a negative into a positive through some of the social media start-ups and most are FREE…. by learning to play a new instrument, learn to dance, learn a new exercise program, learn to paint or draw, become a part of the movement that can do something silly and laugh about it.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Catherine Pinkham, the Town of Bridgton’s Health Officer. Catherine gets a very small stipend and was appointed not to long ago but has been a tremendous resource in keeping management informed and coordinating resources and volunteers. Thank you Catherine. If you need assistance you can contact Catherine at 803-9064.

Until next time.…be safe and be well.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Georgiann M. Fleck

 Deputy Town Manager