



**MONTHLY REPORT to the BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
March 2021**

This March two items came before the voters in a Special Town Meeting to include the creation of a Tax Increment Finance District and Development Program for Woodlands Memory Care of Bridgton and the rezoning of a commercial building in the Downtown Village Neighborhood for inclusion in the Downtown Village District I. The secret ballot vote was held on March 30 with both items passing by a two to one majority. Many thanks to our Town Clerk, staff, and volunteers for another smooth election process.

Bridgton is joining with Harrison and Fryeburg to prepare pilot expansion project targeting unserved and underserved areas, covering 75% or more of total geography. We are working with RedZone's fixed wireless technology to take advantage of short installation to service times and affordable pricing. RedZone is joining the effort in a public/private partnership and will be providing matching funds for grant applications including to the ConnectMaine authority in charge of the 15-million-dollar bond for broadband expansion passed last summer. We are also looking into other funding options with the goal to cover all costs associated with the planning and expansion in an effort to eliminate any burden on the taxpayer.

The Select Board continues to consider additional proposals from solar power providers under the net energy billing program established by the Maine Public Utilities Commission. This program would provide substantial credits directed to the town's electric power bills.

Bid documents were published for the upper Main Street parking lot project this month. The bid opening is scheduled for 2pm on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact our office or HEB Engineers for packets if you are interested in participating in the bid process. The bid process for the Oak Street sidewalk project will begin soon. This project is being funded by the 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). In addition, the Select Board approved the Community Development Advisory Board's (CDAC) recommendations for a third infrastructure project to expand the sidewalks from Shorey Park to Kennard Street, creating a safe passageway in the high foot traffic area bordered by Highland Beach. Also approved were recommendations for public service projects including the Bridgton Community Center's Navigator program, Recreation Department summer scholarships, Community Help's Winter Wear program, and the Food Pantry.

Speaking of the CDAC, the Arts and Culture Subcommittee is in full swing now and considering several art projects throughout town. If you are interested in joining this effort, please let us know.

Happy Spring to all!

Respectfully Submitted,  
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Community Development Director

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