



MAY 2021 MONTHLY REPORT to the SELCT BOARD
Office of the Community Development Director

Final proposals for engagement in a Net Energy Billing (NEB) program brought forth by the Community Development Office were considered by the Select Board in early May with service provider Ameresco winning the informal bid process. The NEB program partners with the service provider on energy billing credits generated per number of kilowatt hours of renewably sourced electricity (in this case via a solar farm). Savings to the town are projected to be greater than \$700,000 over the 20-year agreement.

Work continued with the Planning Board and town counsel on the consolidation of Land Use and related ordinances. A final combined ordinance proposal is anticipated to go before the voters at the November 2021 election. The consolidation is purposed to eliminate conflicts and clarify requirements to simplify application and review processes. Thanks go out to all parties that have been and continue to work through this important effort.

May marked the kickoff of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future's (GOPIF) Community Resilience Pilot program purposed to develop proposals for funding actions related to climate change planning and resource implementation. Bridgton was selected to participate in the program as a member of a cohort that includes the town of Windham and is being led by the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG). In a press release published by the COPIF the local cohort noted that "Maine's inland communities are being impacted by climate change but have not been the focus of climate planning in recent years, given the immediate impacts of sea level rise on coastal communities. Inland communities need support to plan for climate change impacts they are already seeing, like increased tick activity, flooding of inland waterways and degraded water quality." Other communities participating in the statewide program include Harpswell, Phippsburg, West Bath, Caribou, Washburn, and Fort Fairfield.

Also in May, this office participated in a state-wide Climate Action workshop series hosted by Antioch University, with Bridgton focusing on housing. The series participants and subject matter experts worked through potential climate change impacts from an equity perspective, developing tools and approaches to sustainable and affordable development in the face of climate change.

The Main Street Parking Lot Project was awarded to Khiel Excavation in Mid-April, with planning and final preparations completed in May. The project commenced in early June and is slated to be completed in July.

The new Subcommittee on Arts and Culture formally commenced in May with plans to develop and execute mural projects on appropriate building spaces. Also in the works were discussions on the fourth of July parade. The subcommittee will coordinate with other arts-oriented groups to bring arts and culture activities and events that no doubt will be welcomed by all following on a tough year and a half under Covid restrictions.

Cheers,
Linda LaCroix, Community Development Director

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