



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

Following on a series of bidding events and consideration of final and best offers from two solar electric power providers, the Select Board approved an offer from solar developer Ameresco that will generate a savings of over \$462,000 on the town's electric costs over a period of 20 years. Under the Maine Public Utility Commission **Net Energy Billing** program, electric billing credits will be applied to monthly bills on a percentage of kWh usage basis. The credits are associated with Ameresco's development of a solar field in Lisbon, Maine. The program incentivizes renewable energy development through a public/private partnership between a municipality and a developer. Both parties benefit from the program.

Administrative Assistant Courtney Kemp worked with Recreation Department Director Gary Colello to achieve a \$35,000 grant award that will support the **before-and-after-school-childcare program**. Courtney is also working with recipients of Community Development Grant Program's **Covid emergency assistance efforts** in partnership with the Bridgton Community Center to redirect funding where it is most needed. As part of the regional Working Communities cohort Courtney is developing additional programs targeted to at-risk youth in the County.

The Community Development Advisory Committee is at ground level in two current efforts: first a framework for a **proposed conservation commission** that would provide expert guidance and action to maintain, refurbish, and or preserve our most treasured assets. Such a commission would grow out of existing entities and would include local organizations to consolidate resource planning and protection and address urgent mitigation efforts in certain distressed assets. The second effort will form a working group purposed to engage youth of all ages from the elementary schools through high school and young adults in leadership activities supporting youth-based programs. More on both efforts as they come to fruition.

The Arts & Culture Subcommittee of the CDAC under the leadership of Greg Bullard continued work on future mural projects wherein local business owners partner with the subcommittee and residents of all ages to establish a plan for the painting of **Bridgton-focused murals** throughout the downtown area. Murals have proven to positively impact economic development and enhance community pride. In the next month the subcommittee will reach out to residents for mural ideas to present to building owners and local leaders for consideration and approval.

In June we brought several proposed **Land Use Ordinance amendments** to the voters at the Annual Town Meeting including certain modifications to dimensional requirements, addition of "similar uses" to the allowed uses per District, and amendments to landscaping requirements in addition to amendments to the town Nudity Ordinance and Ordinance to Control Disorderly Houses, all of which passed.

Cheers,  
Linda LaCroix, Community Development Director