



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

The second workshop of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future's Resilience Pilot Project considered vulnerabilities for the towns of Bridgton and Windham in light of potential impacts from climate change, as well as potential projects that would mitigate or eliminate gaps in municipal response planning and operations. The detailed survey consisted of vulnerabilities assessments for infrastructure, natural and constructed resources, populations and more with respect to potential climate events. The two-town cohort will use these inputs to determine a list of top priorities and response actions from which one or two immediate issues will be considered under a grant proposal for \$28,000 in funding between the two towns. Bridgton and Windham plan to continue to work as a cohort through the proposal process and to respond to the key priority considerations we have in common.

The regional broadband effort managed out of this office and including the towns of Bridgton, Harrison, and Fryeburg continues to evolve. Fryeburg and Bridgton have signed a memorandum of understanding detailing the mutual effort to assess and make recommendations on an expansion of internet services to cover at minimum all unserved areas of both towns. The focus going forward will be on Bridgton and Fryeburg with Harrison still looking into longer-term options at this time.

To the delight of this office local businesses led by Maine Eco Homes put on a fabulous music, food, and refreshments event on Main Street after receiving approval from the Selectboard to use an area of town property for this great event. Two bands, food vendors and craft beer were all on hand to help the town celebrate. The crowd numbered over 500 with many cheering for more of the same. Thanks goes out to all the organizers, participants, volunteers, musicians, and vendors for a much-needed celebration as the summer seasons comes to an end.

Developers of the new Woodlands memory care facility held a ground-breaking ceremony to mark the start of the development work. Several folks spoke at the event, recalling steps along the two plus year journey to secure the project for Bridgton. This important facility will enable our aging population to remain close to home where friends and family can be a part of their loved-one's care and company. We hope some day the facility may expand to include assisted living as a means to furthering access to key aspects supporting the aging process. We thank Woodlands for their efforts and dedication to bringing this facility to Bridgton.

The Community Development Advisory Committee and the Arts and Culture Subcommittee are working on various key efforts to include consideration of important conservancy approaches to help stabilize and enhance quality of life in Bridgton, a youth involvement effort that will engage high school aged kids in municipal projects, and continuation of a proposed mural project in downtown Bridgton. Volunteers and interested parties are always welcome to attend meetings and join in these and other efforts of the Committee and Subcommittee. If interested, please contact the CDD Administrative Assistant Courtney Kemp at CKemp@BridgtonMaine.org.

Cheers and be well,
Linda LaCroix, Community Development Director

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