



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

The Selectboard approved two proposed ordinance amendments for inclusion in the November 2021 Town Meeting warrant. First up is the *Repeal and Replacement of Victualers and Marijuana Establishment Licensing Ordinance*. Second is *Amendments to and Consolidation of Certain Town of Bridgton Land Use Ordinances*. A "Yes" vote on this second question will repeal the Town of Bridgton Land Use Ordinance, Site Plan Review Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, and Building, Plumbing and Razing Ordinance and replace these ordinances with the Bridgton Land Use Code. Copies of the text of the ordinance are available from the Town Clerk and are also available on the town website under Elections.

Final negotiations are in play for a fixed wireless internet provider to bring internet connectivity to the whole of the towns of Bridgton and Fryeburg. The vendor has successfully completed a pilot project for new technology that will provide a minimum speed of 100/100 and up to 500/500 internet service at an affordable and competitive price. Once approved and underway the project is anticipated to be completed within six to nine months. This marks an important moment for our towns as the absence of robust and affordable internet town-wide has left many citizens in a connectivity void. Those not connected lack opportunities to access critical essential services offered remotely, as well as the opportunity to work remotely from home for both school and work activities leading to an inequitable situation. The lack of town-wide connectivity is also a direct hit to Bridgton's competitiveness overall. This regional effort comes on the heels of nearly two years of research, meetings, engagement with state, county and regional entities and residents, and a deep dive into options that could bring internet to our residents now. We are looking forward to the pivotal moment when this much-needed asset elevates Bridgton's competitive advantage and eliminates an inequitable circumstance for many.

The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future's Resilience Pilot Project hosted by the Greater Portland Council of Governments and including the towns of Bridgton and Windham had their third and final workshop at which ten priority actions were considered that would either mitigate or eliminate potential threats and negative impacts triggered by climate change. The cohort will submit the priorities list to the reviewing authority on October first, then will narrow down the list to put forward one or two most critical responses for further development under a \$28,000 grant opportunity. This work is an initial step to ensuring that Bridgton is taking necessary actions to both understand and respond to increasing changes to our weather, habitats, waterways, and other natural and constructed assets so important to our town.

The Arts and Culture Subcommittee of the Community Development Advisory Committee made great strides in September working with the owner of the building housing Ricky's Diner to develop a proposed mural to be painted by local artists and students next spring. This first project of the Subcommittee was supported by the Selectboard as a welcome addition to Bridgton's downtown.

Cheers and be well,
Linda LaCroix, Community Development Director

Office of the Community Development Director