



**MONTHLY REPORT to the BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 2021 & January 2022**

On December 1st the Governor announced the Community Resilience Partnership, a \$4.75 million program through the Governor's Office of Policy and Innovation and the Future. This program is the successor to the Community Resilience Pilot Project that our office participated in over the previous six-month period. Following this announcement, Bridgton completed the final steps of the Partnership program and was awarded a \$28,000 grant to be shared with Windham, The Governor's Press Release note that the Partnership will enable towns to "start or enhance their local climate action plans, and undertake community projects to curb carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to the effects of climate change." The Governor's office and the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) will provide technical assistance to the effort.

The 2022-2023 Community Development Block Grant season began in full swing with the announcement of the new program and acceptance of applications from local service organization and from the town to extend sidewalks from Shorey Park to Kennard Street, providing safer access to Highland Beach and connecting neighborhoods. Bridgton is awarded a set-aside from HUD funds each year to for service organizations and infrastructure projects. The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) is tasked with reviewing the applications and providing recommendations to the Selectboard. Awards for projects approved by the County Government will be available for use in July of 2022, the start of the implementation phase of the grant process.

The CDAC is also in full swing with regard to the Conservancy Research Group and the Lake Region Youth Leadership Group, each tasked initially with assisting in gathering data relevant to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update. We encourage folks to join us in these efforts. In addition, this office is in the planning stage of a town-wide outreach program targeted to hearing from all Bridgton residents and businesses through a formal engagement process designed to secure up-to-date and wide-ranging feedback that will inform the next ten years of planning and development in Bridgton. More on the engagement process in the months ahead.

The Community Development office continues its discussions and work with County and State officials on a broadband plan for Bridgton. We are reaching final consensus on negotiations with providers with next steps targeted to how implementation will be rolled out and to securing necessary funds that will be needed to support the effort to potentially include subsidies for low-to-moderate income resident who face barriers to acquiring monthly internet service.

Bridgton welcomed new businesses to town through the Chamber sponsored ribbon- cutting ceremonies including Dog on the Porch, Ray Construction, and Quarterdeck Properties.

Cheers,
Linda L. LaCroix
Community Development Manager