

Community Development August Report



Hello from Community Development! I am pleased to be writing my first monthly report as your new community development director. My predecessor, Linda LaCroix, will be missed and I feel very fortunate to have worked alongside her for the past nine months before stepping into this role. I wish her all the best in her retirement!

August has been a busy month here at the town office. Our new round of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) began in July, and our subrecipients have begun spending their funds to benefit the community. We are lucky to have such dedicated service providers in Bridgton! Our CDBG-funded infrastructure projects have been backed up due to the pandemic, but I am happy to announce that our 2020 project was completed this month! Oak Street, home to Bridgton residents and Harmon Field, finally has a brand-new sidewalk. Thank you SLR Engineering and Aceto Earthworks for your hard work and cooperation! Our 2021 CDBG-funded infrastructure project will extend a sidewalk from Main Street to Kennard Street, ensuring safer passage to Highland Beach. The 2022 project will improve the sidewalk on Elm Street, which is home to our local post office. These two projects are currently under environmental review.

In other news, our department collaborated with Loon Echo Land Trust and the Recreation Department to carry out a bidding process for consulting on an Open Space Plan. We held a public bid opening on August 16th, and a review team has since selected a consultant from the three bids received. We are excited to work with TJD&A Landscape Architects and Planners to develop an inclusive, informative, and actionable plan that will help guide our open space and recreation opportunities in the future. Natural space and recreation are a key component of our local economy, and we are grateful to the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future for the Community Resilience Partnership Grant that will fully fund the project.

As always, we continue to collaborate on a weekly/monthly basis with our Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC), Ordinance Review Committee (ORC), Arts & Culture Subcommittee, Planning Board and more.

- The CDAC has a new chair and vice chair, Kevin Raday and Margaret Sanborn. Our former Chair, Ursula Flaherty, is deeply missed in our community.
- The ORC brought forth the Fireworks Ordinance and Dog Control Ordinance to the November Warrant.
- The Planning Board brought forth amendments to the Land Use Code to the November Warrant.
- The Recycling Committee brought forth the Pay Per Bag ordinance to the November Warrant.
- The Arts & Culture Subcommittee is planning a film screening for the 100th anniversary of a historic film shot in Bridgton and surrounding towns.

Lastly, our Community Development summer intern had her last day on August 19th. Athen Hollis was a joy to have in the office, and I hope she comes back to visit! As part of the Margaret Chase Smith Maine Government Internship Program, we spent her last day at the Blaine House for a garden party.

Thank you for reading,
Tori Hill
Community Development Director

