

# Community Development September Report



## General Updates

Our department has a new team member: Keri Montague! Keri has extensive municipal experience, and the town is lucky to have her on board 😊

## Community Development Block Grant

While our new program year (2022-2023) just began, we're already gearing up for 2023-2024. Stay tuned for the application to go live on our webpage in November.

## 2024 Comprehensive Plan / Vision Bridgton

In partnership with The Opportunity Alliance and The Bridgton Library, Bridgton received a \$10,000 grant to participate in Community Heart & Soul. This gives us a funding for a coach and creative tools for community engagement that we will incorporate into the 2024 comprehensive plan. In our monthly meeting we recognized that we have several community engagement efforts happening at once: Community Heart & Soul, Open Space Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan. We decided all three efforts will be branded under the umbrella name *Vision Bridgton*. We're holding a logo contest for Vision Bridgton, and the winner receives a \$300 cash prize! Email [susan.guthro@opportunityalliance.org](mailto:susan.guthro@opportunityalliance.org) for more information on the logo contest. We're looking forward to launching Vision Bridgton and beginning to engage the community in these efforts!

## Open Space Plan

On Monday, September 12, Bridgton staff and Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT) had a kick-off meeting with TJD&A Landscape Architects and Planners. TJD&A laid out a timeline for completing our Open Space Plan by May of 2023, before our grant funding from the GOPIF expires. Community Development and LELT have been sending the consulting team as many existing planning documents and GIS data as possible so they can begin working on a map of where we are now. They're also building an interactive website so the community can inform where we want to be in the future. Bridgton is fortunate to be booming with development and new residents, but open space planning will be key to balancing this with our rural character.

## Marketing

Last year our "Love Always Bridgton" holiday ornaments were a huge hit! We ordered more and they will be available at the town office and Rec's annual holiday craft fair. Proceeds benefit summer rec scholarships. Check out the @townofbridgton Instagram page where we're always highlighting great photos and events around Bridgton!

## Committee Updates

**Community Development Advisory Committee:** The CDAC is working on scheduling all CDBG-related meetings from now through March.

**Arts & Culture Subcommittee:** A&C met with the folks who run the four on the 4<sup>th</sup> race and will be collaborating on a new mural project!

**Ordinance Review Committee:** ORC is revising our traffic ordinance.

**Planning Board (workshops):** The board is scheduling workshops from now through March to work on LD 2003 compliance.

**Bridgton Memorial School Ad Hoc Committee:** BMS Ad Hoc is a new committee that the selectboard has tasked with creating three designs for the vacant Memorial School site.

Thank you for reading,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tori Hill".

Tori Hill  
Community Development Director