

Community Development April 2023 Report



General Updates

A few big events this April: Two new sidewalk projects started on Elm Street and Highland Road, and our RFP went live for the comprehensive plan!

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

As we wait to hear from Cumberland County on our final allocations for the year, our sidewalk projects are kicking off - J Pratt began working on Highland and Elm Street sidewalks on April 10th and expect to wrap up both projects before May 15th. The photo to the left shows the Highland Beach Sidewalk, and to the right is the newly paved pathway through Shorey Park.



Please reach out to our department if you have questions on these projects.

Our CDBG-funded sidewalk projects are:

- 2020 – Oak Street (completed Fall 2022)
- 2021 – Highland Beach (4/10 - 5/15 2023) (in progress)
- 2022 – Elm Street (4/10 - 5/15 2023) (in progress)
- 2023 – Church Street (Dates TBD - Fall 2023)

Comprehensive Plan / Vision Bridgton (VB)



Our department sent out the RFP for consulting services for the comprehensive plan update! We're excited to see a lot of bids on this important project! Meanwhile, VB is still in full swing collecting input from residents on what they want to see in their community 5-10 years down the road.

Open Space Plan

Viewshed, the consulting firm working on the plan, presented at the CDAC meeting on April 26th to show findings and part of the drafted plan. They will have the plan wrapped up in June! Please check out the website dedicated to the project; The link is posted on our webpage.

Marketing

The team submitted a summer ad for Portland Mag featuring local photographer/drone pilot, Nancy Murphy Campbell. Check out her work on Instagram @njc_photo. As always check out the

@townofbridgton Instagram page where we highlight great photos, events, and businesses around Bridgton! Love Always Bridgton “swag” items are always for sale at the town office. Proceeds benefit summer rec scholarships.

Broadband

The team will continue to meet with ISPs and local broadband groups to provide more options to Bridgton residents. This month, Spectrum applied for a grant through Maine Connectivity Authority to reach the currently unserved residents. Unfortunately, other towns were given priority due to higher numbers of unserved residents. We are looking forward to speaking with Consolidated Communications (also seen as Fidium) about their build-out scheduled for this summer.

Grants & Other Funding Streams

Secured:

- CDBG – annual allocation +/- \$200,000
- \$50,000 – Governor’s Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future (GOPIF) – allocated to our open space plan
- \$10,000 – Community Heart and Soul Seed Grant – allocated to community engagement process (Bridgton Public Library acts as the fiscal sponsor for this)
- \$8,000 from GPCOG to assist with the transportation chapter of Bridgton’s comp plan

In Progress:

- 1.4 million – EPA Earmark for Wastewater – our office is working with finance and Woodard and Curran to submit all required documentation to receive funds. There will be a selectboard workshop on this matter.
- ARPA – \$450k possible funding source for completing the wastewater extension project if approved

Committee Updates

Community Development Advisory Committee: The CDAC is bringing in a series of guest speakers.

Arts & Culture Subcommittee: A&C is planning Second Saturday Art Walks for the summer.

Ordinance Review Committee: ORC is reviewing the Traffic and Skateboard ordinances.

Planning Board (workshops): PB is reviewing LD 2003

Bridgton Memorial School Ad Hoc Committee: First meeting will take place this June!

Thank you for reading,



Tori Hill
Community Development Director