

Community Development May 2023 Report



General Updates

This month, Deputy Director Keri Montague was offered a great position with Fryeburg Academy. Her last day was May 26, and we wish her the very best of luck in her new position! She has been an incredible asset to the Bridgton team!

Also, on May 26th the Town received proposals from five different consulting firms for our comprehensive plan update. Our final selection will be made by June 2nd. We're looking forward to re-igniting the comp planning process with a group of highly qualified professionals.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Our CDBG allocations for the 2023-2024 program year have been sent from Cumberland County:

Public Service - \$28,615

Bridgton Admin - \$33,154


County Admin- \$5,000


Infrastructure - 124,000

The public service pot has been allocated to the Bridgton Food Pantry and the Bridgton Community Center Navigator program. Bridgton is lucky to have these incredible services in our downtown! The infrastructure pot will be allocated to a new sidewalk project on Church Street. 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)

Thank you, J Pratt Construction and Woodard & Curran Engineering, for all your hard work on the Elm and Highland sidewalks this spring! Final touches will be done in early June.

Comprehensive Plan / Vision Bridgton (VB)

On May 26th at 3:00pm the Town held a public bid opening for our comprehensive plan update. We received bids from the following firms:

BerryDunn and Woodard & Curran

North Star Planning

Viewshed

Greater Portland Council of Governments

IOV Community Planning and Consulting



A selection team comprised of three members of our Comprehensive Plan Task Force and our CDAC Chair will meet on June 1st to score proposals and make a recommendation.

Open Space Plan

Viewshed will be delivering a **final presentation to our Select Board on June 21st at 5:00pm!**

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

On May 18th our team met with Consolidated Communications about their build-out taking place this summer. We’re very excited to have their fiber extending throughout town and into select neighborhoods. We will continue to work with ISPs to extend broadband services to every household in Bridgton. Additionally, the Town will be partnering with the Bridgton Public Library and Greater Portland Council of Governments on a Digital Equity and Inclusion Plan to incorporate into the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

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.
- ARPA – \$450k possible funding source for completing the wastewater extension project – [The Cumberland County ARPA Advisory Committee has recommended to fund our project 😊 The County Commissioners will make the final recommendation on Monday, June 12th.](#)

Committee Updates

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

Arts & Culture Subcommittee: Next Art Walk is June 10th!

Ordinance Review Committee: ORC is finalizing the Traffic ordinances and will begin revising the Outdoor Festival Ordinance next month.

Planning Board (workshops): PB is reviewing LD 2003- we may get an extension in June.

Bridgton Memorial School Ad Hoc Committee: First meeting is June 7th!

Thank you for reading,



Tori Hill
Community Development Director