

Town of Bridgton  
Bridgton Memorial School Ad Hoc Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
9-13-2023, 4:00-5:00 pm

Members in attendance: Gary Colello, Christopher Walton, Peter Lowell, Matt Markot, Victoria Hill, Bruce Hancock, Anne Overman

Others in attendance: Darcy from the Community Center

1. Called to Order: 4:10 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Current Business
  - a. Hear from invited key stakeholders including Gary Colello from the Recreation Department and Darcy from the Community Center.
    - i. Gary expressed the following opinions:
      1. The Recreation Department cannot meet all of the needs of the community under the current situation.
      2. The future needs of the Recreation Department are most likely best served by capitalizing on the Ham Complex space given its size as a parcel and the relatively limited regulatory obstacles related to permitting new facilities.
      3. In contrast, he noted the relative difficulty related to providing Recreation Department needs within the constraints present at the Memorial School site.
      4. He noted the extreme need for a large, outdoor public gathering space within the downtown area which would not require displacement of parking options to safely provide public space for large gatherings.
    - ii. Darcy from the Community Center expressed the following opinions:
      1. Bridgton is a rapidly growing community, and in contrast to other local towns, Bridgton does have services that are in high demand, including transportation services, food service, community meals, and assistance during heating and cooling emergencies.
      2. Darcy also noted that while the existing Community Center is already not capable of providing all necessary services, the needs placed on the Center will continue to grow.
      3. It was noted and discussed that the existing Community Center building is a registered Historical Structure and may not be readily or easily modified, although additions to the building are allowed.
4. Future Business
  - a. Discuss progress to date with Open Space Plan and impacts on our mission as a committee
  - b. Discuss and approve tentative schedule for upcoming committee meetings and how to best plan committee business to ensure we meet our deadline for submitting results to the Select Board by March 1, 2023.

5. Adjourned at 5:10 pm.