

# Community Development Department October 2023 Report



## General Updates/Community Highlights

An amazing group of volunteers hosted the first-ever Pleasant Mountain 20k Race on October 7<sup>th</sup> to benefit Loon Echo Land Trust. Congratulations to the runners and all the folks who made this event happen! It was fun spending time next to the lifts at Pleasant Mountain outside of ski season! We are already looking forward to next year.



## Comprehensive Plan / Vision Bridgton (VB)





[Our project website is live! Check it out](#) 🟡 ⋯ 😊


Please leave comments on the [discussion board!](#) (photo below) This is a great way to start conversations with your neighbors or share your opinions. It's completely anonymous.

The three discussion points are: Challenges, What I love about Bridgton, and Ideas and Suggestions. Our first in-person project **Kick-Off Event** is **scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm at Town Hall!** See you there.

Share with us about ...

  
Challenges

  
What I love about Bridgton

  
Ideas and Suggestions

Plan ahead for continuing growth in Depot St area. Current Community Center building should be expanded, rehab and add on. Old school should be torn down and open space with wonderful access to Stevens Brook and trails within Pondicherry Park.

[Start a discussion](#)

💡 Ideas and Suggestions | a day ago Like 👍+1 Dislike 👎

I love the beautiful gardens around downtown. They are very well designed and cared for. Love to see lots of color throughout the summer and fall and plenty of native plants too. They make a difference for people, place, and pollinators.

[Start a discussion](#)

♥ What I love about Bridgton | 13 days ago Like 👍 Dislike 👎

Improve trails, trail connectivity, and wayfinding to make Bridgton more walkable and bikeable. It would be great to have attractive, well-designed signs around town that indicate where parking is, where trails are, major landmarks etc to encourage folks to park and explore. In addition - a centrally located outdoor information kiosk with an event bulletin board would be great and benefit local businesses and organizations.

[Start a discussion](#)

💡 Ideas and Suggestions | 15 days ago Like 👍+4 Dislike 👎

I love the natural beauty of this region. That includes the wooded areas. Please protect the rural nature of our outer corridor.

Implement changes to our ordinances that require a greater emphasis on dense housing focused near the town center, rather than sprawl, which decimated our natural landscape. Implement greater buffers and enlarge the

The rapid growth of housing has resulted in the

## Ham Complex Master Plan

The team reviewed three concept designs for the Ham Complex this month and gave feedback to [Viewshed](#). The designs were based on the public input we received in the Open Space Plan. We're still on track to complete the master plan before the end of the calendar year.

## Open Space Plan

We are advertising positions for the open space committee! [Applications](#) due December 1<sup>st</sup>.

MISSION AND CHARGE: The Open Space Committee acts as an advisory committee and resource to the Select Board. The Committee will coordinate with other entities within the Town government including the Comprehensive Plan

Update Task Force, Recreation Department, and Community Development Advisory Committee. The key element of the Committee's mission is to carry out the implementation chapter (chapter 7) of the Town of Bridgton Open Space Plan.

### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The CDD received updated estimates from our engineering team, and the cost of the Church Street Sidewalk Project has increased approximately 30%. The Town will apply to next year's funding to cover that difference, and plan for Summer 2024 construction.

Bridgton's 2023-2024 CDBG-funded infrastructure project:  
Church Street Sidewalk (Dates TBD)

Bridgton's 2023-2024 CDBG-funded service-provider projects:  
Bridgton Community Center Navigator Program  
Bridgton Food Pantry

### 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
- ARPA – \$450k for Bridgton Sewer Main Extensions Project
- 1.4 million – EPA Earmark for Bridgton Sewer Main Extensions Project – extending sewer lines down Smith Avenue, Maple Street, Efficiency Way, and part of South High Street – Application submitted by W&C in 2021 – qualifying paperwork submitted by Finance and CDD in 2023.
- \$50,000 – Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future (GOPIF) – Mountain Road Stormwater Evaluation – **Awarded!**

#### In Progress:

The CDD is partnering with the Rec Department to explore the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This would potentially be used to implement pieces of the Ham Complex Master Plan.

### Committee Updates

**Community Development Advisory Committee:** The CDAC is continuing a series of guest speakers and gearing up for CDBG season. They will hold an off-site meeting at Walker Memorial Hall in November.

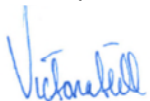
**Ordinance Review Committee:** ORC is finalizing the Traffic ordinances and will begin revising the Outdoor Festival Ordinance over the next few months.

**Planning Board (workshops):** PB is reviewing LD 2003 and subdivision regulations (public hearings in November)

**Bridgton Memorial School Ad Hoc Committee:** The BMS Ad Hoc Committee is drafting three potential uses for the site to present to the Select Board.

**NEW – Open Space Committee:** time/date TBD – Membership applications due December 1<sup>st</sup> (link above)

Thank you for reading,



Tori Hill  
Community Development Director