

# Community Development Advisory Committee

Minutes for meeting February 28, 2024

In attendance: Members: Kevin Raday (Chair), James Kidder, Mary Tworog, Maggie Lynn, Amy Stone, Al Bottone, Beth Cossey, Evan Miller; Others: Bob McHatton, Bob Peabody, Tori Hill, Gary Colello, Haley Richardson

1. Select Board report (Bob McHatton) - Maine Eco Homes received permission to include the Town logo in welcome packets it is giving to new residents. Warrant items to be included on the June warrant were discussed. Transfer Station fees for commercial haulers will be on the next Select Board agenda. Pursuing a grant for the Ham Complex was discussed. The Recreation Director will give a presentation to the Select Board at the March 4 budget workshop.

2. Town Manager's report (Bob Peabody) - Ham Complex updates will be part of the budget process. There are existing reserve funds and designated revenue to apply to this project; possible CDBG requests for future funding cycles.

3. CDBG\* Recommendations - The committee voted unanimously (moved by Amy Stone, seconded by Beth Cossey) to fully fund the Bridgton Community Center request (\$17,680) for the Navigator position and allocate the remainder of the social services portion of the grant to the Bridgton Food Pantry. The latter amount could vary depending on the exact award grant. Discussion focused on grant applications and evaluation scores. The committee voted unanimously (moved by Amy Stone, seconded by Evan Miller) to fully fund the Infrastructure request (\$125,000) from the Town for completion of the sidewalk construction on Church St. Discussion focused on materials and timeline.

\*Community Development Block Grant

4. Other Business-

a. Bob Peabody (Town Manager) gave an overview of the budget process and summary of changes and drivers for this year's proposed budget. Revenues from state were among items discussed. Some staff will be receiving a 4% COLA increase; some employees will also be getting wage adjustments; union employees (police, fire, public works) will be receiving negotiated wages and benefits. Drivers also include capital expenditures, long-term debt, & Route 302 development TIF. These will be applied to capital expenditures, wastewater will also be offset by ratepayers. There are staff position costs that are offset by revenues from Salmon Point and Moose Pond Reserve, CDBG admin fees, wastewater ratepayers, state revenue sharing, and excise taxes. Budget workshops are March 4th and March 5th, starting at 9:00 am. Published agendas are on website.

b. Gary Colello (Recreation Dept. Director) is applying for a National Park Service grant for the Ham Complex, which will require an affirmative vote from the community and a financial plan. There will be a presentation for the Select Board on March 4th