

Community Development Department

March 2024 Report

General Updates/Community Highlights

Bridgton was invited to speak on a panel at GPCOG's Housing Summit on March 26th. The panel was called "what's working," and Bridgton was joined by Portland, Biddeford and Yarmouth to discuss projects that are making progress in fighting Maine's housing crisis. Bridgton is working with GPCOG through the Housing Opportunity Program on a feasibility study for town-owned property. Its an exciting project, and we're glad we were able to share it with everyone at the Housing Summit.



Comprehensive Plan / Vision Bridgton (VB)

How to get involved:

- [Check out our project website](#)
- Please leave comments on the [discussion board!](#) 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.
- New Month, New Question – Share our [Question of the Month](#) activity to help engage more folks in the comprehensive planning process.
- **The Comprehensive Plan Survey has ended. We received 653 responses!** Thank you to everyone who helped promote the importance of community engagement.
- **(NEW) Post a comment on the map!**
- **(Coming soon)** "Meeting in a Box."

Ordinances

The team submitted the following ordinances to the June Warrant this month:

- Outdoor Festival Ordinance (to be repealed)
- Mass Gathering Ordinance (to replace the Outdoor Festival Ordinance)
- Victualers Licensing Ordinance (edits to match new Mass Gathering Ordinance)
- Floodplain Management Ordinance (state requirement)
- Land Use Code Revisions (to comply with State housing law)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Bridgton Community Development Advisory Committee scored applications and made recommendations to the Selectboard on March 12th. The Selectboard held a public hearing, and those recommendations were forwarded to Cumberland County. All 2024-2025 applications were recommended for full or partial funding.

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 through the Community Development Office (Closed / Open)

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 transportation planning.
- 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

In Progress:

The CDD has begun the application process for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to carry out Phase I of the Ham Complex Master Plan.

Committee Updates – CDD staff serve as staff liaisons to the following committees:

Community Development Advisory Committee: The CDAC made CDBG funding recommendations to the Select Board

Ordinance Review Committee: ORC is putting the finishing touches on the Traffic Ordinance.

Planning Board (workshops): The Board held a workshop on March 19th

Comprehensive Plan Task Force: The CPTF looked at "Meeting in a Box" for community engagement.

Open Space Committee: The OSC is prioritizing projects and is looking forward to carrying out the goals and priorities of the 2023 Open Space Plan.

Thank you for reading,



Tori Hill
Community Development Director