

# Final Draft

## Chapter 8

### **PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

Certain services and facilities are provided by the Town to protect the public health and safety and to ensure the well being of all residents. The availability and adequacy of these services reflect the community's desirability as a place in which to live and work.

#### **Municipal Government and Administration**

The Town of Bridgton is governed by a Selectmen/Town Manager form of government that includes both elected and appointed officials. The Board of Selectmen is composed of five residents who are elected to the Board with staggered terms of office. It is the Selectmen's responsibility to exercise certain administrative and executive powers of the municipality through an appointed manager. Under this system, the Selectmen remain the executive body but they exercise their administration duties through the Town Manager.

The Planning Board is an elected Board of five regular and two alternate members.

Appointed boards and committees include:

- Board of Appeals*
- Budget Advisory Committee*
- Comprehensive Plan Committee*
- Investment Committee*
- Recycling Committee*
- Wastewater Committee*
- Community Development Committee*

Elected and appointed boards all depend on a sufficient number of volunteers willing to donate their time and expertise.

NOTE: The Bridgton Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was appointed originally as a public/private organization of the Town. At present it is a completely separate and autonomous group.

#### **Bridgton Community Center**

The Bridgton Community Center (BCC) is a multi-generational center offering activities and functions that enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Bridgton. It facilitates, develops and/or administers recreational, educational and health programs for people of all ages in the Bridgton area. The BCC provides support and meeting space for other non-profit organizations, support groups, and state programs. Local emergency fuel

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assistance, and community food service are also BCC programs.

The Community Center is a hub for social service information in the Bridgton area. Information is gathered by the staff and referrals are made to those in need of services. Often initial contact is made by the BCC through outreach.

The addition of a new kitchen through a Community Development Block Grant has provided the necessary space for increased nutrition and food programs for all ages through partnership with local churches, local food stores, and Southern Maine Area on Aging. Continued community investment in the BCC Gardens expands our fresh vegetable contributions to the Bridgton Food Pantry, area seniors and culinary programs.

Educational opportunities and training are also offered.

The BCC has provided space for the incubation of new nonprofit organizations such as Senior Transportation, Lake Region Non Profit Team and Lake Region Dental.

### **Bridgton Fire Department**

#### *Personnel:*

The Bridgton Fire Department is a paid call department comprised of approximately 40 members. These members are paid for calls and some training and are not on duty at any specific time but respond from home or work when a call is received from dispatch. Members carry pagers and or radios to receive the calls, communicate, and coordinate the response to calls. All personnel train each Wednesday evening and some weekends throughout the year. Members attend training courses outside of the department as well. Some of these classes occur with our neighboring mutual aid communities and some are more regional. Many on the department are state certified as Firefighter 1 or 2 or Instructor 1 or 2. There are also personnel trained in hazardous materials response, open water and ice diving, vehicle extrication, wild-land firefighting, incident command, emergency management and many other areas.

#### *Stations and Apparatus:*

The Bridgton Fire Department currently has four stations to protect approximately 68 sq. miles of town. These stations located as follows with the listed equipment:

- Central Station: 7 Gibbs Ave.
  - Engine 1 – 2004 Central States engine w/1500 gpm pump 1250 gal tank, Class A&B foam, extrication tools, airbags, generator, lights etc.

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- Ladder 1 – 2009 Smeal 100' aerial platform w/200 gpm pump 300 gal. tank, Class A foam, 212' of ground ladders, generator, lights, extrication tools
- Reel 1 – 1983 GMC/homemade large diameter hose reel truck w/2500' 5" large diameter supply hose, fittings, hose bridges etc. as well as extra traffic control cones, signage, etc.
- Marine 1–1990 8' X 20' Yankee airboat and trailer w/water rescue equipment, ice rescue equipment, and dive equipment.
- Utility 1–2005 Kawasaki 4 wheeler and trailer w/associated safety equipment.
- Tank 4 – 2011 International vacuum tanker 3500 gallons, 500 GPM pump
- South Station: 305 South Bridgton Road
  - Engine 4 – 1998 Central States engine w/ 1500 gpm pump, 1500 gal. tank.
- North Station: 116 North Bridgton Road
  - Engine 5 – 1990 Middlesex engine w/1250 gpm pump, 1250 gal. tank
- West Station: 923 North High Street
  - Engine 6 – 2002 Central States engine w/1500 gpm pump, 1250 gal. tank
  - Forestry 49-1976 Army 6X6 forestry unit w/250 gpm pump, 1000 gal tank, forestry equipment.

### *Dispatch:*

All calls for service for the Bridgton Fire Department are dispatched by Cumberland County Regional Communications Center in South Windham. This regional dispatch center has served the town since August of 2011.

### *Mutual Aid:*

Bridgton Fire Department has a strong working relationship with all of our surrounding communities that allows for the provision of mutual aid when needed, both receiving and supplying. This mutual aid is provided through a statewide mutual aid agreement and in some cases is done automatically with some neighboring departments to provide the needed resources as quickly as possible. It is not uncommon for up to a dozen departments to provide on scene help and station coverage when a community has a serious incident to handle.

Additionally Bridgton and surrounding communities continue to train together in areas such as Fire Fighter 1 and 2 academics, water supply for large fire events and other specialized response.

### *Administration:*

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The department has a part-time Chief (15 hrs per wk) and receives administrative help from an administrative assistant shared with the police department. A part-time inspector position (8 hrs per wk) has been added.

### **Bridgton Police Department**

The Bridgton Police Department is comprised of eight full-time officers to include the Chief of Police, the Lieutenant, six full-time patrol officers, four part-time reserve officers, a full-time administrative assistant and two on-call animal control officers. This compliment of staff allows for the department to provide police coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The department participates in community events including the monthly Community Crime Watch meetings, CHOICES (Community Helping Officers in Cooperation with Educators) program as well as charity functions such as The Special Olympics.

The Drug Take Back initiative is an opportunity for citizens to turn in unused prescription medication for proper disposal.

The Department transitioned the dispatch center to contracting with the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center.

Further transition and change for the department was the hiring of a new position of Public Safety Administrative Assistant to support both the Police and Fire Departments. This position staffs the reception area in the Police Department Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm. This position also serves non-emergency functions such as issuing burn and concealed weapons permits.

The Department has partnered with the Bureau of Highway Safety to obtain grants to provide extra patrols for speed limit enforcement, seat belt enforcement, as well as OUI or impaired driving enforcement. Federal grants were obtained to procure new ballistic vests for our officers as well as new portable radios. In total we have procured about \$15,000 in grant funding.

### **Bridgton Water District**

The Bridgton Water District is a quasi-municipal district governed by three trustees. The district is staffed by an Operations and Management Superintendent, an Administration Superintendent, and a Class 2 Operator. The District currently has 799 customers, 91 public fire hydrants, 6 private hydrants and 16 miles of water main.

The District obtains its water from an aquifer in the southwest corner of town known as Sandy Creek, specifically the Willet Brook Aquifer. The District pumps an average of 63,358,000 gallons, annually.

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In 1992 the District purchased approximately 60 acres of land surrounding the District wells in the Sandy Creek area. At that time, the District also built a new pumping station at a cost of 1.1 million dollars of which a \$500,000 federal grant was obtained.

In 2002, the District finished the construction of a new 1,000 foot, 12 inch water main on Highland Road and built a new 500,000 gallon reservoir. The District now has two underground reservoirs for water storage that provides a total of 1,100,000 gallons of water in reserve to fight fires and serve as a backup in case of a major break in one of the water mains.

In 2004, the District connected both ends of the District's water supply, forming one complete loop. The extension started at the end of service at South High Street (just past the Willett Road) out to the end of service at Sandy Creek. This extension included six new fire hydrants and added a number of customers to the system.

### **Harrison Water District**

The Harrison Water District services 134 customers in North Bridgton with a 12-inch main located on Maine Route 117. The water is pumped from the Bear River Aquifer. North Bridgton system contains two 200,000-gallon reservoirs. The Town of Bridgton pays the Harrison Water District hydrant fees for the hydrants in North Bridgton.

#### *The future of the system:*

Plans should be made for grant monies to connect Bridgton Water District and the Harrison Water District along Maine Route 117. This would provide redundancy for both of the towns. A combined Water District should be formed to administer both systems.

### **Sanitary Sewer and Subsurface Sewage Disposal**

Bridgton is served by a two-cluster wastewater disposal system. Bridgton collects the output of onsite, privately owned and maintained septic systems. Bridgton then pipes that waste to two separate underground aeration plants. One is located on lower Main Street (Harmon Field) and the other off Wayside Ave. (Dodge Field). The outlet of the aeration plants is then directed to underground drain fields for final disposal.

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Bridgton, in 2009 installed two underground aeration systems and rebuilt or repaired the underground drainage beds. This brought the systems' ability to handle the currently allocated sewage discharge in line with drainage capacity of the underground disposal fields.

Further studies of the systems Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) were made. Since the systems have been in use since 1978, none of the privately owned systems had been inspected for I&I. The reduction of I&I through this program has allowed more efficient use of the existing systems.

The Harmon Field system is currently at 100% capacity and the Dodge is 80% of capacity. The Wastewater Committee, under the direction of the Sewage Commissioners (Bridgton Board of Selectmen), is exploring the feasibility of an expansion of the system.

### **Public Works Department**

The Public Works Department has many maintenance tasks including highway, vehicle, park and cemetery maintenance, and is also responsible for care and repair of town-owned buildings.

Summer highway maintenance involves 89 miles of road grading, ditch work, culvert maintenance and installation, brush cutting, roadside mowing and preparing roads to be paved. During the winter season the Department plows and sands approximately 120 miles of roadway. There is a staff of eight full-time employees, two full-time mechanics, and three full-time employees for parks and cemeteries.

The parks staff is responsible for each of the five Town-owned parks, the five Town-owned beaches, and the 13 cemeteries for which the Town is responsible. Duties include everything from mowing grass to repairing gravestones and burying the deceased. The Town cemeteries have adequate capacity for another 30 to 40 years.

The Town Garage is located on Willet Road south of the center village, and houses most municipal vehicles and equipment. Stored behind the Town Garage is the salt and sand used on winter roads. Salt is stored in a shed and sand is stored in a separate 7,000 cubic yard shed. There is a 1,500 gallon tank for storage of calcium chloride.

Town vehicles currently include 7 dump trucks with plows, two one-ton trucks, three pickup trucks, a front-end loader, a backhoe, and a grader.

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## **Bridgton Solid Waste and Recycling**

The municipal transfer station is located south of the center village on Route 117 at 118 Sandy Creek Road. The eight acre site was the former home of the town's landfill. Following requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection, the landfill was capped and closed at a cost of nearly one million dollars.

The current facility is operated by a manager and one full-time employee and two to three part-time, on-call employees.

According to the state planning office, Bridgton was the first community to recycle, starting in 1979 when it built the 60 X 100 foot building presently on the site. In 2008 townspeople voted to go to single-sort recycling and send all the recyclables to EcoMaine in Portland. A second compactor was added to compact recyclables. The baling equipment remains in the building and the plan is to leave it there, idle, until 2014 when it is to be determined what direction EcoMaine will take. EcoMaine is a community-owned waste to energy and single sort facility in Portland governed by 21 Maine towns and cities.

Currently Bridgton pays a tipping fee of \$88 per ton for municipal solid waste and an assessment fee the towns share toward their debt which works out to \$70 per ton. This brings the cost to \$158. per for trash generated in Bridgton, in addition to the transportation costs. The single sort recyclables care hauled to EcoMaine for approximately \$205 per load (2012 figures). Metal, wood, demo, bulky items, tires and universal waste are separated from the municipal solid waste.

The transfer station maintains a backhoe, forklift and a set of truck scales to manage the facility.

Records show that Bridgton's recycling rate at EcoMaine is 21.1% and the state's figures are closer to 29%. The difference is that the state takes all separation into account when calculating its figures and EcoMaine only uses trash vs. recyclables. Currently Bridgton sends 2,150 tons of trash and 575 tons of recyclables to EcoMaine.

The 2012 Recycling Committee recommended to the select board that a pay per bag system would best increase recycling in Bridgton, however, the plan was defeated once again by the voters in 2013.

## **Recreation**

Bridgton has an active, full-time recreation program led by a town-employed Recreation Director. All age groups are served with a variety of seasonal offerings including; swimming lessons, youth basketball, youth soccer, youth baseball and softball, ice

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skating, youth and senior trips as well as an extensive list of adult fitness programs during the week.

Bridgton has eleven surface water bodies within or along its borders. Some of these water bodies are used for public recreation programs in the summer. Long Lake, Highland Lake, and Woods Pond all have developed public access areas. The Town owns undeveloped land on Foster Pond. The State of Maine owns Sabbatis Island on Moose Pond (along the causeway), and the State boat ramps on Adams Pond, Moose Pond and Long Lake. Other ponds in Bridgton include Beaver Pond, Kezar Pond, Otter Pond, and Peabody Pond.

A Downtown Revitalization Program in the 1980's established several mini-parks in the village, which add to the aesthetic and recreational value of the downtown area.

Bridgton's recreation inventory includes the following:

- Two State organized public boat launches at Long Lake and Moose Pond.
- Two Town organized public boat launches at Highland Lake and Woods Pond.
- Camp/Picnic areas.
- Bridgton's Salmon Point Campground has 49 vehicle sites plus 2 tent sites.
- Fields and Courts: 5 playgrounds, 3 little league ball fields (for both baseball and softball).
- Anticipated town ownership of multiple fields and amenities at the Bridgton Recreation Advancement Group (BRAG) built complex.
- The Town Hall features a small gymnasium, measuring 3,500 sq. ft. It is used for a wide array of programs: including Senior Fitness, Tai Chi, Zumba, Table Tennis, Aerobics, Cardio Kickboxing, Fencing, Youth Basketball, Adult Basketball, Adult Soccer, Open Gym, Wing Chum Martial Arts, Toddler Playgroup, Four Square, Lacrosse, Baseball/Softball warm-ups, Dances, and the annual Community Halloween Party.
- Nature Trails: 3 miles in Perley Woods, 3.7 miles at Holt Pond, the one mile Stevens Brook Trail, and \_\_\_\_miles of trails in Pondicherry Park .
- Year-round foot trails: 65 miles, maintained by the local snowmobile club.
- The LEA Trail from Bald Pate Mountain to Lake Region High School is 6.5 miles long. The trail from Narramissic to Bear Trap is 1 mile long.



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- Winter Facilities- 10 miles of cross- country skiing at Shawnee Peak, 50 acres downhill, and 6500 sq. ft. of ice skating at the Bridgton Community Ice Rink behind the Town Hall.
- Open Spaces and recreation areas: 18,737 acres—including Bald Pate Mountain, Highlands Golf Course, Shawnee Peak, 12 acre Sabbatus Island, the BRAG (Bridgton Recreation Advancement Group) Recreational Complex, and miles of trails at Five Fields Farm.
- Swimming: 5 Town organized public beaches at Woods Pond, Highland Lake, and on Long Lake a combined total of 1,095 feet of beach.
- Programming: After-school programs: Bridgton Recreation now offers Karate, Mad Science, and a Songwriters Club at Stevens Brook Elementary School, and LRHS in addition to the standard youth athletic offerings.
- Youth Athletics: Lake Region Youth Soccer (K-6), LR Youth Basketball, Tee Ball. Cal Ripken Baseball, ASA Youth Softball, Swimming Lessons, LR Youth Lacrosse, LR Youth Field Hockey(through Casco Rec), Youth Football(through Naples Rec).
- Summer Trips: Senior Trip to Acadia National Park, Youth trips to Funtown/Splashtown, Whales Tale Water Park, and Portland Sea Dogs.
- Seasonal/ Holiday Events: 4th of July Fireworks and events, Halloween Party at Town Hall and the Festival of Lights in December.

### **Bridgton Public Library**

The construction of the Courtyard at Bridgton Public Library was completed in 2010. The front door was then re-opened for public use for the first time since 1994 and remains open during library hours. Postings on Facebook, the library website, in the Bridgton News and on Lake Region TV are used to keep the public informed about available services and programs. The library is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for a total of 30 hours each week. Thursday hours were added for eight weeks during July and August 2011 to expand service to the community.

Books and audio-visual material are the primary focus for the library, as well as a variety of programming. Three new eReaders were purchased for library users to try out and compare differences in the brands available and to understand this new delivery system for reading material.

The library has more than 29,000 books, magazines, audios and videos. In 2011 these items were checked out 43,841 times. 768 items were borrowed from other libraries through Interlibrary Loan. There were 30,268 individual visits to the library, 2035 people

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used the wireless internet during open hours. Wireless internet is always available so software is being tested to count the number of uses during all hours. 6,431 people used library computers in 2011.

Programming for youth, reference and research assistance , online database assistance, legal resource availability, and online book renewal are also services provided to visitors.

New library management software was installed. New hardware was installed further expanding bandwidth, thereby providing the speed and capacity to serve the increased number of users accessing the internet. An additional wireless router was installed to increase the reach of the wireless internet signal throughout the building and to the surrounding area to ensure unrestricted internet access regardless of library hours. Currently nine computers are available to the public.

The staff continues to stay informed through training and professional development.

Friends of the Bridgton Public Library supported the library with funds raised through their book sale, book bag, and apron sales.

The Library is a member of the newly formed Lake Region TEAM, a group representing many nonprofit entities in Bridgton, working together to support each other and maintain the rich cultural activity available in the area.

### **North Bridgton Library**

North Bridgton Public Library services the area's residents and seasonal visitors. The library is expanding its services and purchasing more equipment in the future. The library is equipped with free wi-fi, PCs, laptops and a wireless printer. The library is connected to the Maine State Library Network which provides enhanced services to patrons as genealogy, college prep, and GED prep.

There is a very extensive mystery collection, including many old and rare mystery books. The library also has a large Maine book collection and Archive collection. There are community events here as book sales, open house events, girl scout meetings, farmers' market meetings, a knitting circle, mystery book club, conversational Spanish, computer courses, job seeking, career skills and children's programs.

The library has over ten thousand books and carries children, junior, young adult and adult books, as well as adult audio books. We offer Interlibrary loan services that allow patrons to check out books from libraries all over Maine. Membership is open to all Lakes Region area residents and summer residents.

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## **Bridgton Hospital**

Bridgton Hospital, a Critical Access Hospital, plays a fundamental role in the health and vitality of the Lake Region and the Mount Washington Valley of New Hampshire, serving the health care needs of year-round and seasonal residents, businesses, and visitors.

Founded in 1917 as Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital, Bridgton Hospital, a not for profit 501C organization, changed its name in 2000 to coincide with its merger with Central Maine Medical Center and kick off a capital campaign to build a new, state of the art, 52,000 sq. ft. hospital. The new 25-bed, \$12.5M facility opened its doors in January 2002.

In addition to its traditional hospital- based services, Bridgton Hospital provides primary care through its affiliated medical practice, offers an extensive variety of on campus specialty care services, an Urgent Care Center, and participates in a variety of health promotion and education initiatives that enhance community well-being. They have on-site medical practices on the hospital campus and off-site medical practices in Naples, North Bridgton, and Fryeburg.

The hospital and its physician group currently employ approximately 275 employees. It is one of the largest employers in the region with an annual payroll of nearly \$17M.

Over the next 10 years, Bridgton Hospital plans to focus on four key areas: quality, growth, finance, and satisfaction. Continually keeping an eye on trends in healthcare will allow the facility to maintain its place in the community as a viable community leader into the future.

## **Public Education**

Bridgton is part of Maine School Administrative District #61, which also includes the towns of Casco, Naples and Sebago. Bridgton students in grades K-5 attend Stevens Brook Elementary School that was built in 2000 on Frances Bell Drive. During the 2013-2014 school year, 305 students attended SBES.

Based on projections from the Maine State Planning Office, the number of school-age children in Bridgton is expected to decline from an estimated 829 children in 2000 to 703 children by the year 2015. If these projections are reasonably accurate, and they have been holding true to predictions, Bridgton should have adequate capacity in the elementary school, and will not be exerting growth pressure on MSAD #61.

In relation to curriculum changes over the last few years at the elementary level in the District, the school has adopted a new core reading program. These programs emphasize large group and small group reading instruction, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

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The school is in their sixth year of full implementation of a standards-based math program at the elementary level called Everyday Mathematics. The state test scores across the District in mathematics in grades 3-5 have increased greatly since the introduction of this programming.

Lake Region High School has been utilizing federal funds under a School Improvement Grant for the last three years. Here are some of the details regarding the changes:

- ❖ LRHS has moved from having four period days of 75 minutes each to five period days with 68 minutes each.
- ❖ Teacher leaders were given the same day to work as a team (GOLD days) to help implement and review instructional changes.
- ❖ The academic day at LRHS begins at 7:28 am, as compared with 8:10 in previous years.
- ❖ LRHS changed from quarters and semesters to trimesters of 12 weeks each but has recently gone back to the semester schedule.
- ❖ Study Halls were replaced with enrichment and intervention time for grades 9 and 10 and Educational Explorations, which are self-guided/self-selected learning experiences, for grades 11 and 12.
- ❖ Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) are being provided for those students who passed their semester classes at the end of each semester. Any student who failed a core class, or class required for graduation, during a given semester is required to participate in remediation sessions and are given the opportunity to get their failing grade up to a 70% (passing) instead of having to wait until Summer School.

### *2014-15 Academic Structure:*

All students in grades 9 and 10 will be enrolled in either the Freshman or Sophomore Academies respectfully so as to allow a specific focus on setting up the successful student.

- ▲ Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academy
- ▲ Academy of Visual and Performing Arts

Students will meet in their academies on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The work done during the academy time will be project-based. There will be a total of 14 days worth of “academy time” each semester. LRHS will have only semesters next school year. Each semester will have 18 weeks.

Progress report grades will be posted by the end of week 6 and 12, followed by a final report card grade shortly after the end of week 18.

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Grade level advisory groups will be returning to LRHS on Mondays.

Band and chorus will be offered everyday (last block). 40 minutes of chorus followed by 40 minutes of band)

The Junior/Senior Alternative Academy will have 20 to 25 students (max) and will continue to be housed at CRES. There will be an application/interview process to be considered for this program.

### **Airport**

Eastern Slopes Regional Airport, FAA Identifier KIZG, is located in Fryeburg, Maine. The Airport is 12 miles west of Bridgton. The Airport runway is 4200 x 75 feet with single wheel loading: 30.0 allowing for multi-engine airplane landings. Runway 14 elevation is 452 feet and runway 32 elevation is 420 feet. Runway edge lights are medium intensity. Runway 32 is served by a 3.00 degree VASI and an NDB-B approach. Major airframe and power plant service is provided by the FBO. Aviation fuel 100LL and JET-A are available.

The Airport is owned by the Eastern Slope Regional Airport Authority and supported by the region's towns. The Airport serves Bridgton's camps, schools and industry with a modern landing facility within 12 miles of Town.