

March 18, 2016

It's a windy, busy time in the municipal offices; and I love it. As I said last month, June seems far away to some but to us here, it is "municipal time," so it is a lot closer. The budgets are being finalized, the warrant is getting ready, and, we are working on public outreach/education on the changes to the wastewater ordinance. I do hope you see this ordinance as not only a favorable and technical change to the ordinance, but also as the only way we can allow for some re-development and tenant changes in the downtown right now. Such tenant changes and re-development in the downtown are currently imperiled by the current ordinance.

A new bathroom for the Woods Pond beach area will be constructed soon. We are also looking into funding mechanisms to do the same for a new bathroom, with a changing room, at Salmon Point Beach.

The decisions for the use of funds for the Community Development Block Grant Program are currently being finalized. There has been some modifications this month that will be set in stone hopefully by the time this gets published.

The Lake Region Food Study grant from Cumberland County was underway this past month. Ken Meter of Minneapolis, nationally known for working on agricultural economic projects, is the consultant working with the region on this project. We plan to have him return for more interviews soon.

The Main Street streetscape project is also humming along. There was unfortunate confusion about the date of the walk through town, but it is/was March 19th at 10 AM, which is a Saturday! The next meeting for this project will be Saturday April 9th at 10 AM, location to be announced – this meeting is to prepare the vision for Main Street. This session will be a little longer but lunch will be provided. I hope you are able to come to any of these meetings. We had the kickoff meeting, and an office hour day, both of which went well. We will do another office hour day later in April; which means we clear our calendars and stay in the upstairs conference room and you can come in at your convenience during the day into the evening and we can talk about the project. If you are a WordPress user, go to [BridgtonMainStreet](#); there is also an Instagram for this project under the same name so connect with us there!

Have you been to Tasteful Things new location on Depot Street? They have moved so stop in to see them!

Greater Portland Council of Governments have met in a sub-committee to determine how best to coordinate and augment the services both organizations provide to the area. I am on this committee representing your interests.

Town Hall is just about completed, the signs are done so a couple of projects are closing out, to be replaced with more improvement projects!

Wednesday, March 23rd, Women's History month will be celebrated at the Depot Street Tap House starting at 5 PM. I have a Land Use & Zoning Committee meeting (Who is also gearing up with their work!) so I will get there later in the evening. One of the events is to toast the women who inspired you by bringing a picture of that woman, so I will bring a picture of my Mom from her lab scientist years in the late 40's/early 50's.

On March 30th In Westbrook, there is a talk entitled “Strengthening Towns Through Great Streets: innovative Approaches for Municipal Leaders.” This is free and open to all citizens so if you are available that morning, send me an email (ecodevdir@bridgtonmaine.org) and I will sign you up. Consider carpooling to this event as well. I hope to see a good Bridgton showing!

I will be away the first week in April to attend the national planning conference in Phoenix. I am grateful to be there, and I also will be speaking with my colleague in Davenport Iowa, Matthew Flynn. Other sessions I will attend include small business development, local food production, branding your town, broadband provision, ethics, law (sign, sigh) and zoning, including form-based codes. I also will be mentoring some newly minted planners and attending a few receptions for chapters and divisions. The sessions all relate to the work I have going so I am looking forward to it and networking with my colleague/friends that I have worked with for many years.

Carrye Castleman-Ross is working on a Summer Solstice Party that will happen right on June 20th. There are lots of great things planned, including events that evoke the mysteries and traditional celebrations of this change in season.

Best wishes for Easter, if you celebrate, and for a nice Spring Equinox!

I also hope your March Madness Bracket wasn't too bad – I got out of the running quick by thinking Seton Hall would go the big show and win. Ah well, go Syracuse University, my alma mater!

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