

The Community Development Advisory Committee

Jean de Bellefeuille, Chair

Annual Report - 2023

The Community Development Advisory Committee provides advice to the Select Board regarding community development (initiatives) and activities. Primary guidance for the committee is the town Comprehensive Plan with specific details coming through the Town Planner, Yvette Meunier.

The projects the committee addressed in 2023:

Business Directory

CDAC maintained the Bowdoinham website Business Directory filtering submissions and posting only those that conformed to the ground rules. In 2024, a new round of re-verifying all entries in the directory is planned.

Expanded the town website to include a tab under the “Local Business” called “Bowdoinham Amenities” that lists various characteristics of Bowdoinham.

CMP TIF

CDAC enlisted the help of Mathew Eddy to propose a vote to extend the CMP TIF for the final 10 years that is allowed during Town Meeting, 2023. The proposal has been approved. The credit balance in the TIF is approximately \$1.5 Million to be spread over 10 years.

Sidewalk extension

The committee discussed and decided on extending the sidewalk on Main St from School St to Post Rd. This will be funded by a combination of grants and TIF funds. Proposed to install 1,510 Linear Feet of sidewalk for a total cost of \$920,600.

Maine DOT was engaged to identify specific grants that may be able to fund a large part of the sidewalks and the cross walks. Applications are in progress. Typical allocation is 80% federal, 10% state and 10% local.

Cross Walk at Main St (Rt-125) and River Rd (Rt-24)

A prototype cross walk was installed prior to the Celebrate Bowdoinham event to evaluate putting a cross walk across River Rd (Rt-24) from the North West corner to the South West corner, in front of Three Robbers Pub.

A survey taken to collect citizen response regarding the crosswalk:

43% of the drivers reported the crosswalk was a worse driving experience than without it.

Only 9% of pedestrians reported the crosswalk as worse.

54% of the respondents thought that the crosswalk did slow traffic in the affected intersection, which represents a safety improvement for pedestrians.

The choice to put the crosswalk on the North side of Main St connecting to the front of Three Robbers Pub is that the other choice would not provide sufficient room for a landing for the terminating end of the crosswalk. Maine DOT provided guidelines for this decision.

Trail Clean Up Volunteer Day

CDAC participated in this clean up activity. There were approximately 10 volunteers for the Saturday in May.

MCOG Strategic Plan for Artists, Artisans, and Craft People

Review of available avenues to facilitate business and exposure. Full report is in the minutes of CDAC meeting 11/9/2023. Currently this addresses business listing, workshops and events. The main regular venue is the Saturday Farmer's market. Additional venues are: FHC Building, □ Cathance River Gallery (Bill Stanton), Merrymeeting Hall and Town Hall (pending renovations)

Work tracking improvement

Work-Plan-2024-Rev-1-YM.xlsx

[Work-plan-2024-Rev-1_0.pdf \(bowdoinham.com\)](#) (PDF rendering)

Welcome to Yvette Meunier, Town Planner, who joined us in early 2023. She has been instrumental in setting the focus for CDAC and following up on securing various grants that help pay for various projects.

Respectfully submitted Jean de Bellefeuille, Chair; CDAC members: Ian McConnell, Lee Parker, Wendy Rose, John Scribner.