



The Biddeford Beat

CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MON, DEC 12, 2016

Volume 16.15 A1

AARP designates Biddeford An Age Friendly Community

The City of Biddeford is proud to announce that we have been designated as an Age Friendly Community by AARP, and are striving to become more “age friendly” to the senior population as well as those who may be looking to reside in Biddeford. *(continued on A2)*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mon Dec 12

6:30pm – Policy Committee
(City Hall Council Chambers)

Tue Dec 13

5:30pm – Strategic Planning Committee
(City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room)

7:00pm – School Committee
(BHS Little Theater)

7:00pm – Solid Waste Management
(Public Works Facility)

Wed Dec 14

8:00am – Downtown Task Force
(City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room)

4:00pm – Historic Preservation
(City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room)

6:00pm – Zoning Board of Appeals
(City Hall Council Chambers)

Thu Dec 15

5:00pm – Personnel Committee
(City Hall Council Chambers)

6:30pm – Airport Commission
(City Hall Council Chambers)

7:00pm – Conversation Commission
(City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room)

7:00pm – Harbor Commission
(Biddeford Pool Fire Department 2nd Floor)

For Full Calendar, [click here](#)

Roads, Buildings, Vehicles and Other Expensive Items

The City Council received an annual reminder that the items the City must take care of are expensive, really expensive. At the December 6th council meeting, the City Manager presented the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a planning document; it is not a funding document. This means that the document proposes recommended purchases, replacements, and/or major repairs over the next five years in an ideal world setting. *(continued on A3)*

A Community and its Mission, Vision and Values

François Gautier quotes, “More important than the quest for certainty is the quest for clarity.” Organizations, like individuals, need clarity. To achieve clarity, one could argue that three components are necessary: direction, focus and purpose. Strategic planning is the cornerstone in successful private sector organizations. Central to the strategic plan process, is the development of the Mission, Vision and Value statements. *(continued on A3)*

RiverWalk and the Master Plan

In 2013, the City of Biddeford began development of a Biddeford RiverWalk Master Plan with the goal of providing pedestrian and recreational connections and spaces to highlight the Saco River. The RiverWalk is expected to support on-going redevelopment of the Biddeford Mill District and overall vibrancy Downtown. It also provides spectacular visual access to the Saco River in places that have never before been available to the public.



View of Ramp to Fall Plaza Area

Since acceptance of the original master plan, the City has made considerable strides in final design and construction of various elements of the RiverWalk, including construction of the Gateway/Overlook Plaza, connection to North Dam Mill and *(continued on A2)*

(continued from A1 Age Friendly)

Mayor Alan Casavant stated, “An ongoing concern of mine has been how the City can be more inclusive of its senior citizens. What is needed to make them feel safe and vested in our community, as well as what programs, policies, and infrastructure might most improve their quality of life.”

The Biddeford Age Friendly Community Committee has been formed and will guide the process of assessment and development of a plan. New members are always welcome.



Nov 2016 | Bowdoinham, ME
Age Friendly Volunteer Group

A grant application has been submitted to AARP for assistance in data analysis and plan development. The City should hear in January if it has been awarded the grant.

(continued from A1 RiverWalk)

a Pedestrian Bridge which was constructed in collaboration with the City of Saco and related property owners. Most recently, the City of Biddeford completed Laconia Plaza which offers outstanding views up river to Saco Falls.



Laconia Plaza –
Constructed
in 2016

This Master Plan update has been prepared to support future redevelopment efforts and the continued goal of providing pedestrian friendly connections from Main Street to the Saco River, the Diamond Match site and the Eastern Trail with interconnections to the City of Saco. The report and plans can be accessed, [here](#).

Photos from December 2nd Downtown Holiday Festival



Academy of Dance



Reilly's Bakery



Biddeford Fire Truck - Rear



Biddeford Fire Truck - Front

(continued from A1 CIP)

We all know we do not live in an ideal world. Most citizens understand that the City Council determines the annual budget for the day-to-day expenses. CIP is another big responsibility that the Council funds. CIP includes such items as buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure. In other words, CIP includes all of the 'things' that the City owns.

Most citizens understand that the City owns buildings and vehicles but few have a grasp on the value of these assets. When you include the school buildings and the Waste Water Plant (Sewer), the value of buildings is \$82,140,720. Vehicles total another \$31,132,089. Infrastructure includes items like roads, drainage systems, sewer pipes, etc. In total, there is \$76,369,177 worth of infrastructure that the City is responsible to maintain. With some other minor categories, the City has \$200,798,960 of capital (big ticket) items that it owns and maintains.

The CIP lays out the next five years of suggested spending on the big ticket items. It also suggests funding sources. For the upcoming budget year, the CIP recommends that the City should spend \$11,879,902 of which \$3,076,943 would come from operating budget. As submitted, the CIP suggests that the City should spend \$53,246,199 over the next five years. Of that amount, \$27,868,816 would come from the city operating budget. The balance would come from other sources.

For planning purposes, the CIP is publicly submitted a few months before the City Council receives the suggested operating budget. This provides the Council and the public an opportunity to think about CIP funding, how to prioritize limited funding, and how much of the annual operating budget should be allocated towards CIP. The Council will consider these and other CIP-related decisions over the next six months.

The complete CIP, including details, is available [here](#). We encourage you to review the CIP and offer comments and suggestions by informing your city officials via email at contactallcouncilors@biddefordmaine.org.

(continued from A1 Mission, Vision & Values)

Since the late 1990's, progressive communities have adopted the private sector strategic planning process. When done well, these communities not only survived significant challenges such as the economic downturn in 2007, but they thrived. Biddeford has a very active strategic planning task force that has been working for almost a year to develop the community's first strategic plan.

Well-developed mission, vision and values statements are very powerful. By intention, they should be inspirational; framed in clear, meaningful and reflective statements. They should motivate those involved to achieve a common purpose and to do so in a prideful way.

A famous Lewis Carroll quote states, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there." Organizations, even public organizations need a destination. They need clarity. If the organization has all of its leaders changing every two years, the need is even greater. Our community elects its leaders every two years all at the same time.

The Strategic Planning Task Force is currently working on Biddeford's clarity. You can find the initial draft that was presented to the committee, [here](#).

- What do you think?
- Does it sound like the Biddeford you are proud to be part of?
- What would you change?
- Is there something missing?

Please share your thoughts and ideas with the community via email to strategicplan@biddefordmaine.org. We look forward to your thoughts.

For email subscriptions, [click here](#)

For questions or comments:

t. 207.284.9313

e. newsletter@biddefordmaine.org

Happy Reading.