



# The Biddeford Beat

THE CITY OF BIDDEFORD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019

VOLUME 19.07

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Meetings are located in the Council Chambers at City Hall unless otherwise stated. Live meetings can be viewed on the [City of Biddeford website](http://www.biddefordmaine.org/) or on the Public Access Channel.

**Monday February 18, 2019**

City Hall CLOSED in observance of Presidents' Day

**Tuesday February 19, 2019**

5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting (Live)

6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (Live)

**Wednesday February 20, 2019**

6:00 p.m. Planning Board Meeting @ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Thursday February 21, 2019**

7:00 p.m. Conservation Commission Meeting @ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Harbor Commission Meeting @ Biddeford Pool Fire Station

All meetings are subject to change. [Click here](#) to view updates on the full [city calendar](#).



The City of Biddeford is looking for your feedback on community events! **To begin anonymously answering survey questions from City officials, visit [polco.us/biddeford](http://polco.us/biddeford) or download the Polco app for iOS or Android.**

*If Polco is anonymous, why am I asked for my personal information?*

Citizens are asked to enter their name, zip code, and email address to register for an account. Polco asks for this information to verify if participants are registered voters in Biddeford, although *you do not have to be registered to vote to answer questions on Polco*. Residents' individual information cannot be accessed by the City or other users, but may be summarized in demographic reports. Registering for an account on Polco will also ensure that you receive a weekly email letting you know when the City has posted new questions that we need your input on.



City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of Presidents' Day. Trash and recycling schedules will not be affected.

## BIDDEFORD + SACO ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

February 16 – 23, 2019

Wednesday Feb. 20:

[Surviving Retail's Mass Extinction](#)  
[Growth Capital – A Legal Perspective](#)

Friday Feb. 22:

[Women-Owned Businesses](#)

## BIDDEFORD FALLS JUST SHORT OF “SMALL BUSINESS REVOLUTION” SPOT



Despite strong community support for The Small Business Revolution – Main Street, Biddeford unfortunately was not selected to advance to the online voting portion of the competition to be featured on the eight-part Hulu web series.

Heart of Biddeford was one of over 12,000 organizations around the country to apply to have their city be featured on Season 4 of The Small Business Revolution – Main Street. The series will feature six small businesses from one lucky community that will receive a combined total of \$500,000 of business assistance paid for by Deluxe Corporation. Out of the thousands of applicants, Biddeford advanced from the Top 20 to the Top 10 of the competition but did not advance to the Top 5.

Nearly 150 small business owners and community members came out for a “welcome party” for the Small Business Revolution crew during their visit to Biddeford in January. Many of those supporters followed the competition to its last moments to watch the Top 5 announcement together at Reilly’s Bakery.

“Of course, everyone wanted Biddeford to be selected for a chance to compete in the vote, but when it comes down to it, seeing the community coming out to these events and celebrating together is what the contest was really all about,” said Mayor Alan Casavant. “The new energy surrounding Biddeford’s own ‘revolution’ is a win on its own. We wish the remaining communities the best of luck in the final round of competition.”

Social media activity was a large component of the competition, and a look at the “#MyBiddeford” hashtag encouraged by The Small Business Revolution reveals a trail of positivity surrounding Biddeford news and events over the past several months.

“Participating in this contest was a really special way to bring business owners together and build a sense of community around the idea of #MyBiddeford,” said Delilah Poupore, Heart of Biddeford director. “We want to thank everyone who used the hashtag on social media to tell Small Biz Rev what makes our community special.”

As a perk of reaching the Top 10 in the competition, Deluxe Corporation will still be visiting Biddeford to provide a [free day-long small business marketing seminar](#) on May 6 at Pepperell Center (click [here](#) to sign up). And as Small Business Revolution host Amanda Brinkman described while announcing the top communities, the momentum in the community can continue long after the contest ends.



“What you’ve just felt in your community? That wasn’t us, that was you,” Brinkman said. “You controlled that energy and momentum, and you can decide how to use it in the future. This entire thing is about inspiring people to recognize the importance of supporting small businesses, and I know that has been an aftereffect for all of you.”

## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

At their February 11 meeting, the Policy Committee recommended the following policies to the City Council for consideration:

### Recycling Station Fee Structure

If approved by the City Council, this policy would establish the following disposal fees at the Biddeford Recycling/Transfer Station:

Brush - Residents: \$4.00 per cubic yard.

Commercial haulers: \$10.00 per cubic yard.

Grass - Residents: Free

Commercial haulers: \$10.00 per cubic yard.

Household Items/Demo Debris - \$20.00 per cubic yard for all users

\*If a user brings less than a cubic yard of material, the rate will be adjusted accordingly.\*

The goal of the policy is to prevent taxpayers from subsidizing commercial entities that are using this service at no charge. The policy also aims to prevent non-residents from disposing of their debris in Biddeford at no charge, as many nearby communities already charge for these services.

### Special Event Parking Policy

The Committee recommended a Council policy to serve as guidance for waiving parking fees during special events only. The policy was written to limit potential parking waivers to city-sponsored events. This limitation was recommended because granting waivers to private businesses and organizations for private events may cause issues of inequity. Waivers would also be limited to the Yellow Lot in order to avoid displacement of long-term parking permit holders (the Yellow Lot is already reserved for short-term parking only).

### Grandfathered Housing Recycling Program

This ordinance proposal was introduced to the Policy Committee as part of the City's efforts to reduce contamination in the curbside recycling program. Through monitoring efforts between the Codes Office, Public Works, and Casella, recycling from Grandfathered housing facilities was checked closely and was found to have a 42% contamination rate. In comparison, other residential units were also checked and came back at 18% contamination. The City is looking to maintain an 8% contamination rate throughout the city.

Code Enforcement Officer Roby Fecteau has talked with many apartment building owners their recycling efforts. If the ordinance amendment is approved by the Council, each property owner will be required to submit a written Performance-Based Recycling Plan to the City, as well as post the Plan on site at the apartment building. Failure to comply may result in loss of service.

### Plastic Bag Ban (Tabled)

The Policy Committee tabled an ordinance change that would ban single-use plastic bags in Biddeford. The policy was introduced because Public Works staff has found that plastic bags are a major contaminant in the single-sort recycling stream and are a source of pollution throughout the city. The Policy Committee will consider this ordinance change at their next meeting.

## SACO RIVER DREDGE STATUS UPDATE



Mechanical dredging of the Saco River Federal Navigation Channel began on Saturday, February 9. Mechanical dredges work by digging up or gathering sediment from the bottom surface of a body of water. Sand from the westerly end of the river that is mechanically dredged will be brought to the deep scour hole mid-river for disposal.

Hydraulic dredging is continuing on the North side of the channel heading out to the entrance. Hydraulic dredges work by sucking up a mixture of sediment and water from the bottom surface of the channel and then transferring the mixture through a pipeline to another location. The sand at the easterly end of the river (Camp Ellis area) will be pumped over to Camp Ellis for beach replenishment purposes via hydraulic dredging.

The dredge is expected to continue until mid-March. The contractor will remove an estimated 140,000 CY from the federal navigation channel and anchorages. This \$3.93 million project is completely paid for by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

## BIDDEFORD IN THE NEWS ROUNDUP

There has been some great news and feature stories coming out of Biddeford this February! Here are some of the highlights:

Biddeford was named the [third "Hottest Town in Maine" real estate](#) in 2018 according to Maine Life Real Estate Co. This is the first time that Biddeford has made the list. 257 homes were sold in 2018, compared to 225 in 2017 (a 14.22% increase). The median sale price in 2018 rose to \$253,733, up from \$232,369 in 2017 (a 9.19% increase).

Maine Home + Design's recent piece "[Biddeford + Saco: Renewal and respect for history in these twin cities](#)" highlights Biddeford's history, small business community, culture, and outdoor activities. Eater Maine also featured [16 Reasons to Love Biddeford and Saco's Growing Restaurant Scene!](#)

Engine received a [\\$10,000 Challenge America grant](#) from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) to support the River Jam Fringe Festival. Mark your calendar now: Fringe Fest 2019 will be held on Friday, September 20 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The national blog GovTech helped [spread the word](#) about the City's use of Polco.