

MANAGER'S REPORT
July 23, 2020

Housing Project – One of the items that has been discussed since before I came to Bucksport is the need for additional housing that is located in the in town area. I spoke with a representative of Penquis CAP today about a program that allows for development of housing on a smaller scale than the normal 30-40 unit developments and are geared for a more moderate income level. The deadline for program application is too soon for us to consider an application this year, but I would like to work on a project for submission next year that may allow such a development, potentially of the former Timberlands building owned by AIM.

Latest CDC Guidance – Gatherings – I have attached a copy of the Maine CDC's most up to date guidance on considerations for events and gatherings. In this version, they have assessed a lowest to highest risk rating based on how events are handled. The lowest risk is still to hold gatherings virtually. I spoke with Josie Pelletier, our Public Health Nursing representative from the CDC on Wednesday and she provided me with these guidelines that were updated on July 7th.

Waterfront Request – We continue to have problems with people not cleaning up after their dogs when walking them on the waterfront. We provide 'doggie' bags in several locations as well as waste receptacles for them. Town staff are left to clean up the messes left behind by irresponsible pet owners. Please be responsible – I would hate to have the actions of a few ruin it for the many people who do pick up after their pets.

Tax Bills – Tax bills started arriving this past weekend. In the first 4 days we have already collected \$247,924.57 – or 3.5% of the commitment – and the first half of taxes are not due to prevent interest until August 31st. There has been a positive reaction to the additional Homestead exemption and reduction in the mil rate.

Meal Deliveries – The free meals program hit a new high this week with 159 deliveries on Monday. The program continues through next week at no cost. The \$6 meal fee will be required as of August 3rd. There are vouchers available after the end of July for those on a limited income. Contact Bill Foster at the Senior Center at 469-3632 for more information.

AARP Livable Community Dashboard Project – We are one of 12 communities in Maine who have been invited to participate in an AARP project that develops an age-and-ability friendly 'dashboard' for your community that highlights all the good work we are doing to be a livable community. It is one more way to 'get the word out' about Bucksport and there is no cost to the town for this work. There were four communities in the first 'round' and AARP is seeking to extend the opportunity to other communities as well.