

Dear Members and Friends of BCDI –

Welcome to the first quarterly membership message to friends and supporters of the Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative (BCDI). We hope this message finds you well and enjoying all of the sights and sounds of summer. Between being out on the water, outdoor concerts, our Farmer’s Market, berry picking and more, there are certainly many seasonal activities to enjoy in Bowdoinham this time of year.



We welcome this opportunity to share with you an update on the activities of BCDI:

There are three main areas of focus for BCDI: 1) follow-up on the “Community Conversations” BCDI held last fall; 2) supporting farms and farmland; and 3) the “Neighbors Investing in Neighbors” loan/investment program.

### Community Conversations Update:

A number of great ideas came out of the two meetings BCDI held at the Town Hall last fall, and several of them have already become reality.

- 1) Peary’s Garden, a community garden plot, is sprouting all kinds of veggies and a wonderful spirit of common effort. For more information, visit their [Facebook](#) page.
- 2) Two sturdy canoe/kayak racks, built by volunteers, are filled with colorful craft down at Mailly Park next to the Harbormaster’s Office.
- 3) The Bowdoinham Historical Society has purchased the former Grange and is moving forward to both stabilize the building and to create a new community building. For more information, visit their [Facebook](#) page.
- 4) More projects are in the works such as a natural playground, downtown beautification, and the Town looking at the pros and cons of installing some kind of waste water treatment system for the Village area. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the BCDI Administrative Coordinator, Ingrid Leschefske, at [bcdimaine@gmail.com](mailto:bcdimaine@gmail.com)



BCDI will continue to keep the conversations alive, and to see how it can best support ideas springing from them. If you’d like to get involved please contact Ingrid - we’d love to have you!

To sustain this effort, BCDI has received a grant from the Maine Community Foundation for \$4,400 for 2018-19. The grant is specifically to support citizen-led projects resulting

from the “Community Conversations”, as well as to extend Neighbors-investing-in-Neighbors. Thank you MCF!

### Supporting Farmers and Farmlands:

BCDI’s Farmland Inventory Project continues in collaboration with Land for Good and Maine Farmland Trust. The project aims to provide the tools necessary to preserve the long-term use of our rich farmlands, including lease templates for landowners and farmers as well as farmland succession guidance. During the coming year, a survey to identify available farmland in town will be designed and circulated. We will also continue to develop a map of Bowdoinham farmland that will incorporate both the survey data and existing information to assist us in matching interested farmers with interested landowners. The Farmland Committee welcomes new members, if you are interested please contact Ingrid.

BCDI was pleased to serve once again as a sponsor of the Bowdoinham Open Farm Day and Art Trail event held on Sunday, July 22. It was great to see so many community members meeting our local farmers and learning about their operations in town.



And don’t forget to visit our local Farmer’s Market to support our local farms. It is held Saturdays from 8:30am – 12:30pm at the Waterfront Park. For more

information, visit their [Facebook](#) page.



### Neighbors Investing In Neighbors Loan Program:

The Neighbors-Investing-in-Neighbors program continues to be available to Bowdoinham businesses or startups, providing low interest loans funded directly by folks right here in town. We currently have three loans that are in the process of being repaid, and several conversations going on about financing possibilities. Since its inception in 2012, BCDI has connected local businesses with loans exceeding \$100,000. If you would like more information, check out our new, beautiful [website](#)!

### Upcoming Events

#### Join Us for Dinner and a Show:

On Sunday, August 19, friends of BCDI will be preparing dinner to be sold during the Sunday concert series at 6pm at the Waterfront Park. Come enjoy the sounds of local band Eagles Way while they play classic rock and county, and join us for BCDI TACO NIGHT!!. Featured menu items include:

- Taco plate - (choose two tacos from carnitas (pork), barbacoa (beef), or rajas (poblanos)), topped with your choice of fresh salsa, cilantro, and pickled veggies from Bowdoinham farms and served with a side of Texas style beans.
- Elote (grilled street corn with all the fixins)
- Aguas frescas (refreshing drinks for dessert featuring local fruits, herbs and veggies)

Do you like to hike and explore new sections of town?

One project that the Town has engaged in is creating an “Awesome Places” guide/brochure describing the wonderful public lands that we have in Bowdoinham and how to enjoy them. There are a surprising number of hidden gems that we all could enjoy if we knew more about where they are, how to access them, and what can be found there. If you are interested in helping create this guide, let us know or contact Nicole Briand at the Town Office.

Find us at Celebrate!

We’re continuing the community conversations in an informal gathering space at Celebrate Bowdoinham. Meet board members, sip a fizzy drink, and share with us what you’d like to see in your town.



Join us!

If you love what we do, then become a [BCDI Member](#). Dues start at just \$10 a year.

- + Members receive invitations to invest in the [Neighbors Investing In Neighbors Loan/Investment Program](#), and who are on the Board, Screening Committees, and the [Advisory Group](#).
- + BCDI is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization, therefore, **your membership contribution is tax deductible**, as are any “bequests, devices, transfers, or gifts.
- + When you become a member, **YOU BECOME BCDI!**

Membership is key to our continuation as a community resource:

Don’t forget that BCDI is a membership organization. We count on membership contributions to cover about one-third of the BCDI operational budget, and membership is required to participate in the Loan/Investment Opportunity program. We do not receive any local tax money to administer this community non-profit organization. Membership contributions begin at just \$10 per year.

To become a member, or renew your membership for 2018, please visit the [BCDI website](#) or contact us at [bcdi.maine@gmail.com](mailto:bcdi.maine@gmail.com).

Interested in becoming a board member now or within the next year or so? Let us know!

THANK YOU for your interest in BCDI. We appreciate your support as we all work toward enhancing the community that we call home. Don't forget to check out our [website](#), and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Sincerely,

Kathy Montejo, Chair

Abby Sadauckas, Vice-Chair

Rachel Murphy, Treasurer

Andy Cutko, Board Member  
Member

Mary Mayo, Board Member

David Engler, Board  
Member

Harriet Van Vleck, Board Member

Lily Montgomery, Board Member