

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

A MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITY
FROM THE OGUNQUIT RESIDENTS ALLIANCE

Town News



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Why has the Select Board taken away the independent deliberations used by the elected Budget Review Committee? (BRC)

Why has the Select Board ignored the Annual Town Budget Process clearly defined in Chapter 503 of the current [Town Charter](#) as to be initiated by the Town Manager and Department Heads and **instead** inserted themselves into the mix prematurely?

WHAT'S THE RUSH?



The BRC By-Laws (approved by the Select Board on January 14, 2020) state: "Meetings of the Committee will normally be held monthly from October to December, and weekly upon receipt of the next fiscal year proposed budget from the Town Manager. Weekly meetings will continue until the Committee votes on recommendations for the proposed budget." These are then presented to the Select Board who discuss, revise if necessary, and schedule the required public hearings.

WHAT HAPPENED INSTEAD?

The proven BRC process was not evident during a marathon day long meeting with the Select Board on November 30, 2021. As the public watched, the Select Board members gave their individual opinions on each department budget item. The BRC was overshadowed in this process with some members speaking minimally or not at all.

Continued ↗

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THESE QUESTIONS REMAIN

- Why hasn't the BRC met since September (and has no future plans to meet!) when there are 3 new members and no elected officers?
- Why hasn't the BRC been given the opportunity to analyze Department requests?
- Why haven't we heard from all the Committees and other organizations about their budgets?
- Why don't we know more about 2 new proposed positions in Land Use & Recreation?
- Why have most Department Heads and the Town Manager position received more than 16% (**FOTSB**) raises while others 3%?
- Why, when there are many more months of expenses, revenue, contracts and COVID before the budget is on the June ballot, is it being approved **NOW**?

Is this a railroaded Town budget?

Upcoming Meetings

- **Charter Commission** December 16th
- **Sustainability Committee** on Dec 16th
- **Planning Board** workshop on Tiny Homes on January 10th
- Planning Board workshop on **Stormwater Management** January 24th

Faces & Places

How did the Ogunquit Transfer Station make the [ABC National News](#)?

It all started when Department Head, John Fusco, wrote a letter in support of LD 1541: "An Act to Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money" by the Maine State Legislature.

To help offset the recognized increasing costs for hauling and disposal, LD 1541 was later passed. This legislation will promote manufacturers participating in the cost of both recycling their products and/or contributing to funding that will help get rid of it.

In support of this bill, Fusco wrote: "What has changed here in Ogunquit since I submitted my observations to the Natural Resource Commission last April? Most obviously we see less recycling. In a community that continues to want to recycle, we hear residents telling us that it is discouraging to know that less and less of their waste can be recovered and that recycling has become too confusing. We believe that one-on-one interaction with people gives us the best chance of helping lessen the confusion and our attendants monitor the recycling area very closely, but we are still seeing people struggle to separate what can be recycled and put it in the proper container regardless of signage and instruction and many people who were recycling no longer do so."

Recently John and his staff (Chris, Steven, and Len) see recycling as slowly improving. They are separating metal for profit and glass recycling has recently resumed. Behind the scenes, (what you don't see when you just pull up and drop off) is an increase in sorting and a more organized separation of recyclable categories than was previously maintained. All of this effort reduces what would go into the trash and, as a result, reduced costs to the Town.



The redeemable bottles and cans donated to the shed are now being picked up directly by Clynk. Funds are going to the Wells-Ogunquit Senior Center in a more streamlined process.

The **Pay As You Throw Program (PAYT)** has been initiated as an attempt to gain control of the increasing disposal costs while strengthening the incentive to reduce waste through recycling. Residential garbage will be charged by the bag replacing the daily one free bag limit. In this way, users will pay for garbage according to the quantity discarded.

From 2012-2016, Ogunquit accumulated 572 tons of garbage. For the years 2018-2020, the amount was increased to 744 tons. At the same time, hauling fees increased by 20% in 2020, and a 4% increase is projected for this year and next.

While the new Program still has snags to work out such as torn bags, missing ties and limited availability, the large bags have been selected to accommodate the allowable weight (rated at 35 pounds). See the [Town website](#) for more details. In addition to PAYT, Town taxpayers will continue to support the Transfer Station budget to maintain the facilities and support the staff.

The Transfer Station also takes:

- batteries
- tires (hailed to Wells)
- dry paint cans
- wet paint (goes to hardware stores)
- antifreeze (goes to Auto Zone)



[For other Hazardous Waste see Maine DEP](#)

What's Next?

Let's Help Promote A
Food Waste
Composting Program!



Products Currently Recycled:

- Cardboard
- #1 Plastic containers
- #2 Plastic containers
- Glass (collected but not currently reimbursed)
- Aluminum
- Other Metals



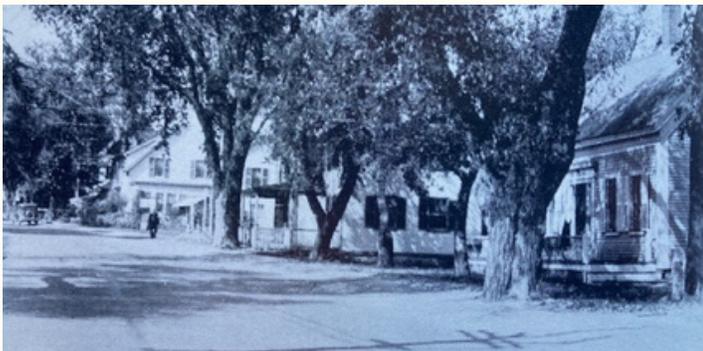
The Ogunquit Historical Preservation Commission Story

While there are many small towns successfully retaining the historic characteristics that make them memorable and charming, Ogunquit's effort to do this is a complicated one. Attempting to keep its unique small-town charm, while at the same time maintaining a balance between liveability for year-round residents and managing its role as a tourist destination, is an ongoing challenge. For this to succeed it's essential that business owners and residents be coordinated in this undertaking.

Many of the oldest buildings in town have kept their architectural integrity while being converted into stores and restaurants, inns and bed and breakfasts. Encouraging owners to preserve the exterior of their historic structures is critical if we are to keep the character of the town.

Public awareness of the importance of preserving what we still have before it is lost is crucial at this time of heightened development. A greater knowledge and promotion of the history of the distinctive properties that play an integral role in the look and feel of Ogunquit could result in more effort to save them. They are found everywhere, from the tip of Perkins Cove to the outer reaches of Ogunquit, many overlooked and ignored but all woven into the fabric that gives the Town its charm. It's time they were all recognized.

This is where the Ogunquit Historic Preservation Commission (OHPC) fits into the picture. Formed in 2004, OHPC was mandated by both the revised Comprehensive Plan and the Ogunquit Historic Preservation Ordinance to preserve, document and protect the historic and archaeological integrity of the Town. The OHPC had to first locate, identify and list every pre-1930 property scattered over Ogunquit's four square miles before it could create a Register listing each site as well as data compiled from surveying and researching each individual property.



1930's view from School Street looking north towards Route #1



1925 looking towards 213 Main Street

Since Vision Appraisal didn't exist at the time, the OHPC members drove down every street with cameras recording each property and used the Sanborn Maps of 1906 and 1927 (which documented the houses existing at that time) as reference points. Gathering information from local citizens with historic knowledge, by 2006 they had managed to compile a list of approximately 325 properties. Although the OHPC placed seven historic properties on the Ogunquit Register of Historic Homes in 2007, they were unable to begin surveying and documenting the properties on their hard fought list.

After years of fits and starts, in 2018 the OHPC began to review and prioritize the 325 sites one at a time, selecting properties that still retained their original style and character. Currently reduced to approximately 125 properties (with an ongoing review of the list to add more), the OHPC is now finally ready to begin the process that the Commission hoped to do in 2004.

Volunteers will be crucial to the success of the OHPC plan to survey and document all the historic properties identified for inclusion in the Ogunquit Historical Register of Distinctive Properties.

- Survey Forms have been created and volunteers will be trained at workshops on how to conduct them.
- Letters will be mailed to the owners of the properties chosen for inclusion in the Register.
- Deed research and historical documentation of the properties will be started.
- All the information gathered will be entered in the Register to be publicly available.

This will be an ongoing task and if OHPC is lucky enough to attract a lot of volunteers to assist them, it will be an interesting and worthwhile experience for all. Hopefully, the wider community will join in the Commission's goals to preserve and protect the historic charm of Ogunquit that began 17 years ago.

Strolling Tourists

Based on a true story....

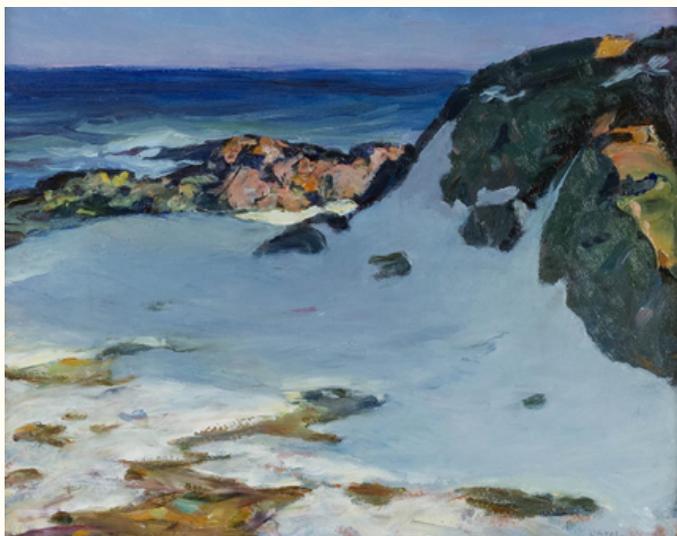
While raking leaves in your front yard, you may encounter visitors who, by asking directions, engage you in a conversation about the Town and you ask, what is it that keeps bringing them back?

Such may be a couple who have been visiting Ogunquit for 30 years. They are drawn to a place where you can seek out nature and marvel at it. Stars that are not visible in the City. Trees from green to yellow to orange to finally, snow covered (soon).

They may have been introduced to the Town by a friend, and have stayed at Inns that are still prospering. They continue to eat at a forever favorite lobster restaurant. They were hooked immediately by the physical setting-ocean and beach as far as you can see-and a lovely quaint village....cozy, intimate, and inviting. An environment that wraps them in its welcome and character. So it began and so it continues.

Over all this time, they still choose to frequent Ogunquit several times a year. Plans for the day will start out on a morning walk along the beach and enjoying the waves poised over the craggy rocks in midair from the Marginal Way. Sometimes they turn at the Footbridge to wander the neighborhoods. Walks these days are shortened but still a treat. Even making a special trip up to return for Christmas By The Sea!

How vital it is to preserve the charm and beauty of the Town as it continues to lure visitors back year after year.



Sunlit Shore by Joseph Benjamin Davol 1864-1923

Did You Know?



The Fabulous Find is a resale shop at 139 State Rd (Route#1) in Kittery that partners with local non-profit organizations each month. In July, the Ogunquit Library received a grant of almost \$9,000 and Great Works received over \$10,000 from October sales!

Comprehensive Plan Committee

In person applications will be accepted until Dec 29th (or email by noon Dec 31st). If you have previously applied, make sure your form is still active.



See details

to support this worthy cause for kids!
Deadline December 13th!

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



Ogunquit Residents Alliance
ogunquibreeze@gmail.com