

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

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

Town News

- **Comprehensive Plan Committee:** 3 additional members resign
- **26th Annual Chamber Music Concerts** June 3rd & 10th sponsored by Performing Arts Committee. [See details](#)
- **Plein Air Event at Beach Plum Farm** June 18th 9-1. [See details](#)

Take the Election Quiz

- Do you miss hearing fair and balanced perspectives and presentations on warrant articles?
- Does being told how to vote and being given warnings of dire consequences if ballots cast are not as directed insult you?
- Why hasn't a functioning Budget Review Committee been allowed to do a thorough vetting of large funding proposals?
- Does a lockstep 5-0 vote by the Select Board reassure you? Are they fulfilling their mandate to "protect and maintain the assets of the Town and to provide leadership and oversight on issues of importance to the Town"?

The ANSWER is: VOTE

Last day to apply for an **absentee ballot** is June 9th
Polls close at 8 PM on June 14th
The Breeze's [May issue](#) includes more information on key warrant articles
Vote for **candidates** who will insist on serious attention to the Town's financial stability.

CONTENTS

- Town News
- Take the Election Quiz
- The Sky's the Limit?
- "Beautiful Place by the Sea"?
- Lack of Action on Natural Resources
- Lapsed Septic Ordinance Enforcement
- Juneteenth and Flag Day

Thanks to the Ogunquit
Fire & Rescue Service for
their continuing
vaccination clinics!

The Sky's the Limit?

Overall Town Budget 2021-2022	➔	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
• \$9,424,043		• \$10,287,815

9.2% increase

General Government 2021-2022	➔	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
• \$836,817		• \$995,296

18.9% increase

Does Ogunquit Really Mean “Beautiful Place by the Sea”?

Not according to a review of historical references...

Historian Esselyn Perkins, in History of Ogunquit Village published in 1951, writes that the name Ogunquit had many meanings and a variety of spellings.

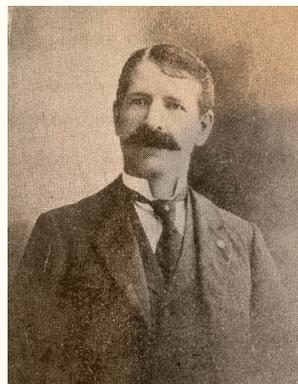
- The late Dr. Gagnong said, “The name comes rather close to the Micmac word POM-UM-IK meaning lagoons formed at the mouths of rivers by dune beaches driven by the winds.”



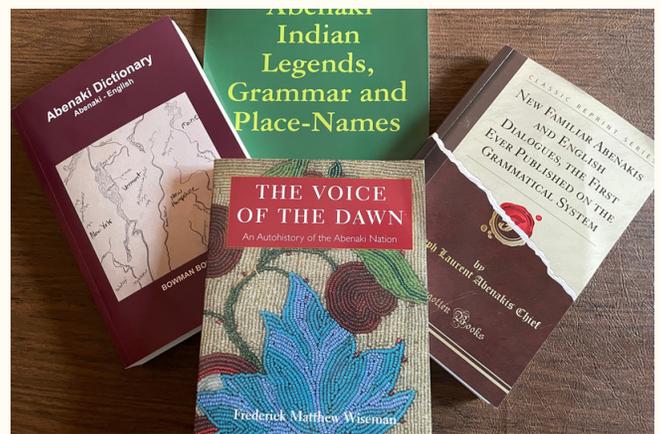
- Volume XXXIV, page 8 of Maine’s Maps and Plans offers this spelling and interpretation, “NEGUNTIQUIT – old, abandoned fields.”
- Fannie Hardy Eckstrom (1865-1946), a historian of the Penobscot Indians and daughter of the most famous fur trader of the time, Manly Hardy, uses the word OBUMKEGG, meaning “a sand bar, particularly one at the junction of a stream with a larger body of water,” in her writings.

New Familiar Abenakis and English Dialogue (1884) was written by Joseph Laurent (Sozap Lolo), chief of the Abenaki reserve of Odanak in lower Canada. The book is a dictionary that translates Abenaki to English and was the first of its kind. Only one word in the entire volume could be interpreted to mean Ogunquit – O’DAWOMKAK – “a sand bank.”

There is also no mention of the word Ogunquit in the book Abenaki Indian Legends, Grammar and Place Names (1932) by Henry Lorne Masta, a scholar, teacher, and leader within the Abenaki community. While attending school in Quebec he studied under Joseph Laurent.



Henry Lorne Masta,
Abenaki Chief



In a letter to Esselyn Perkins (5/17/1958) by Chester B. Price, historian and archaeologist, he writes that there were two Indigenous phrases used to describe Ogunquit.

The first: The Indian carrying place on the Ogunquit River (Rt. 1 crosses this carrying place where the Indians toted their birch bark canoes around the falls) was known as ‘NIGAN-KEK. W’NIGAN is a “portage” – the carrying of a boat or its cargo between two navigable waters. KEK, or IK and OK, is a locative word. Together, the meaning becomes “at the place of the portage.”

The second: Located near Ogunquit Beach (the little village of Ogunquit was on the site of “Dunelawn,” a private residence). This was known as NEGONA KIK taken from the Indigenous phrase WLI NEGONAKIK. WLI, short for WLIGEN: “beautiful.” NEGONA: “Ancient.” KIK: “Place.” Thus “Beautiful Ancient Place.”

Not a single one of the above-mentioned words appears in the Abenaki Dictionary, Abenaki – English published in 2019. The dictionary contains over twenty thousand words, the largest dictionary of the language ever published. Abenaki, also known as Abenaki/Penobscot and Western Abenaki, was once spoken by Native American peoples throughout New England. Today, only a handful of people speak this language. Included in the dictionary are hundreds of New England place names that originate in the Abenaki and related languages of the region. Ogunquit: “Beautiful Place by the Sea” is not one of them.



— 35 —

Menahanakamigw.	7	A peninsula.
Senodkamigwa,	seno-	The shore.
jiwi.		
Pamkaak.		The coast.
Wisawogamak.	6	A strait.
Tegoak.		The waves.
Aiwiben.		A calm ; it is —.
Pitah.		The foam ; the froth.
Pamapskak.	6	A rock.
Mamilahomak.	6	A promontory.
O'dawomkak.	6	A sand bank.
Kzelomsen.		The wind ; — blows.
Petguelomsen.		A whirlwind.
Kokw.	1	A whirlpool.

Natural Resources

How Ogunquit Leaders Ignore its Big Problem

In August 2021, an impassioned plea was made by the Town's Sustainability Committee to the Select Board regarding our water pollution issues. The result was to task the Committee with developing a strategic plan of how to best address the impaired estuary, some failing Ogunquit beaches, storm water runoff, and erosion and sedimentation control, to name a few of our natural resource problems.

At a September 2021 Planning Board meeting, an extensive Workshop regarding the Ogunquit River Watersheds, including a detailed evaluation of septic and sewer systems in Town, was presented.

As a result of all these efforts (primarily done by Town Committee volunteers), the proposed **Ogunquit River and Estuary Water Quality Plan** (completed and presented to the Select Board in March 2022) has three primary objectives:

- Provide action steps to slow and filter stormwater runoff, which carries bacteria, excess nutrients, and chemicals and other pollutants before it enters the Ogunquit River.
- Improve the overall health of the Ogunquit River and its tributaries and foster greater resilience under external pressures, such as soil erosion and increasing run-off.
- Address existing groundwater issues and provide solutions for malfunctioning septic systems and possible leaky sewer lines.

These and other questions remain unanswered:

- *What is being done now and what plans are underway?*
- *Who is in charge of any of the Sustainable Strategies?*
- *Who will report on our impaired beaches and keep our families and tourists **safe in the water** this summer?*

Enforcement of the Septic Ordinance



As of September 2021, the Code Enforcement Office was provided with data on at least **113 Town residences** that lacked up-to-date septic pump reports.

According to the Ogunquit **Wastewater Ordinance**, those on septic systems must have them pumped at least every 5 years and, if the property is within the Shoreland Zone, at least every 3 years. Reporting is required to be filed in the Code Office.

In the absence of a funding commitment and action to identify the specific components of estuary and beach contamination, keeping septic pumping records up to date seems a cheap and doable task for Town staff, thus "eliminating" one potential source. If applicable, fines can be imposed, leaks identified, and abandoned tanks crushed or removed.

As we head into another summer of potentially increasing contamination of our beaches, the Town is now asking for all septic reports to be updated by July 1st, including those that may have now lapsed since the September tally.

- **Why have these lapses taken so long to be addressed?**
- **Will we hear results from the July deadline?**
- **Will there be a commitment to monitor and uphold the Septic Ordinance going forward?**



The Month Of June

The month of June has a lot to offer including LGBTQ+ celebrations and the Summer Solstice on the 21st, the longest day of the year. Named for Juno, the Roman goddess of well-being for women, June is also commonly known as a month of marriages. Here are two other holidays you may want to take note of:

It is the month of June,
The month of leaves and roses
When the pleasant sights salute the eyes,
And pleasant scents the noses.

- N.P. Willis
Born 1907 Portland, Maine



Although Abraham Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the Union Army did not reach the last state of the former Confederacy until June 19, 1865. On this day, General Gordon Granger declared the freedom of enslaved people in the state of Texas. Today it both marks this historical event and is a day of celebration of African-American culture. Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021.

Interested in the Monthly Ogunquit Breeze?

Usually published the first week of every month since December 2020, here's how to access it:

- email for sign-up at info@ogunquitresidents.com
- sign up to be an [ORA supporter](#)
- see the [ORA website](#)
- see the [ORA facebook page](#)

Flag Day June 14th

Maine was the first to use a flag to represent the state (other than its militia). The pine tree and polar star version (below) was the State flag from 1901-1909 when it was replaced by the more standard military-style flag. The pine tree was generally recognized as a traditional symbol representing New England although its roots may be derived from the Iroquois Tree of Peace. The original flag has become more popular again and there has been some movement to go back to it representing the State. To see more, [Check out virtual tours](#) at the Maine State Museum.

