

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

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



The History of Jumping to the Select Board

You may have noticed that there has been a lack of opponents running for the Select Board in recent years. Some have been discouraged by the ongoing set-up *and* here's how it works:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| Individual 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed to BRC as an Alternate October 2019 (attended 1 meeting) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to Select Board for an unexpired term November 2019 Re-elected 2020 for a 3 year term |
| Individual 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to BRC for an unexpired term November 2019 Missed 3 pre-meetings and stayed for 45 minutes on others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to Select Board July 2020 for a 3 year term Re-elected 2023 for a 3 year term |
| Individual 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed to the Planning Board for a 3 year term July 2020 (served 9 months) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to Select Board March 2021 (invalidated election) Elected to Select Board July 2021 for a 3 year term |
| Individual 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to BRC July 2020 for a 3 year term (served 1 year) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to Select Board June 2021 for a 3 year term |
| Individual 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed to BRC as an Alternate July 2020 to June 2021 Elected to BRC June 2021 for a 3 year term (attended several meetings) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to Select Board November 2021 to fill a vacancy until June 2022 Re-elected June 2022 for a 3 year term |
| Individual 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to BRC for a 2 year term June 2022 (served 1 year) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected to Select Board June 2023 for a 3 year term |

Can you guess who's next?

Town News

As of August 30th, police operations have been moved to the Dunaway Auditorium due to ongoing mold issues in their area. Temporary trailers have been ordered to accommodate the police. Current access to Town meetings will be on Channel 3 & Zoom **only**.

Quote from a Citizen

in regards to the Comprehensive Plan presentation on August 17th

"You have pretty lofty goals... If you want any of these to be successful in implementation, you have to have very specific objectives and strategies.

They have to be:

- Attainable
- Measurable
- Assigned to somebody

They have to have:

- a Timeline
- an Evaluation
- Follow-up

If you want the spreadsheet and all you've put together to work, you have to have a committee that makes sure that those assigned to tasks **do their work.**"

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Faces & Places

Arthur Villator

There's Almost No More Room....

....on the walls of his house for his awards for Broadcast Journalism in Editing and Photography. A recent second Edward R. Murrow Prize was just earned for Ogunquit's Arthur Villator along with fellow anchor for their story in the Hard News category on Human Trafficking. The first award was in 2021 for a Feature News Report for The Maine Connection on Channel 8 on how climate change was impacting Maine's lobster and tourist industries.

Since 1971, the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) has been honoring outstanding achievements in broadcast and digital journalism with the Edward R. Murrow Awards. Among the most prestigious in news, the Murrow Awards recognize local and national news stories that "uphold the RTDNA Code of Ethics, demonstrate technical expertise and exemplify the importance and impact of journalism as a service to the community. Murrow Award-winning work demonstrates the excellence that [Edward R. Murrow](#) made a standard for the broadcast news profession."

While it's the announcers and reporters we see on TV, there's the visual decisions- photos, videos clips, editing- that make a story "compelling and relevant," said Dave Abel, WMTW President and General Manager. It's the visual storytelling along with reporting that engages us to notice and remember a news item or special report. How Arthur developed these skills is an interesting story in itself.

Growing up in Ogunquit, Arthur always took photos. He snuck his camera, bulging in his pocket, into concerts to get that best shot of his favorite musician. Watching the crews filming was always more interesting to him than the celebrities in the many movies locally made. By coincidence, his wife Valerie noticed a poster at the University of Southern Maine for a new program in Media Studies and Broadcast Journalism. He signed up for the program and received the first scholarship awarded to USM from the Maine Broadcasting Association. He went on later to receive more than 50 industry awards covering a wide range of story themes from Recycling Challenges to the 5th Anniversary of September 11th for which he earned an Emmy. He was also nominated for 3 Emmy awards in the past 3 years.



Last year he moved from the Portland station to WMUR in Manchester, New Hampshire where is the Chief Photographer and manages a staff of 20 photographers and editors, and is more active in production operations. WMUR is affiliated with Boston area viewers, and covers a broad range of topics and sends crews far afield. Whether it's airing coverage about small community efforts, such as fundraising for digital equipment at the Leavitt Theatre, or revving up for the New Hampshire primary, the reporting team needs to be versatile and stay creative.

While the news business is competitive, Arthur believes there is a spirit among colleagues of wanting everyone to succeed. Most of all, along with all the technical challenges of filming, a passion for the work is key. Keeping a professional stance is not always easy as some of the stories he's covered have been personally moving and tragic for those affected by the events aired.



You can see a gallery of Arthur's beautiful and varied photographs available on Shutterstock, so if you see a photo somewhere that looks familiar, it may have been taken by your talented neighbor.

Natural Resources

Moving from Impervious to Pervious Surfaces (Part I)

Runoff from stormwater continues to be a major source of water pollution in Ogunquit carrying trash, bacteria, heavy metals, fecal waste, pesticides, and other pollutants into storm drains that directly empty into our local waterways with no filtration. Currently, gray infrastructure systems – gutters, pipes and tunnels (which are getting older and corroded) – have been used to move the stormwater away from properties straight to our rivers, estuary and ocean. Unlike some communities, Ogunquit has no sewer treatment of its stormwater. Green infrastructure systems, on the other hand, would bolster the capacity to manage the continuing increase in stormwater, filtering it where it falls.

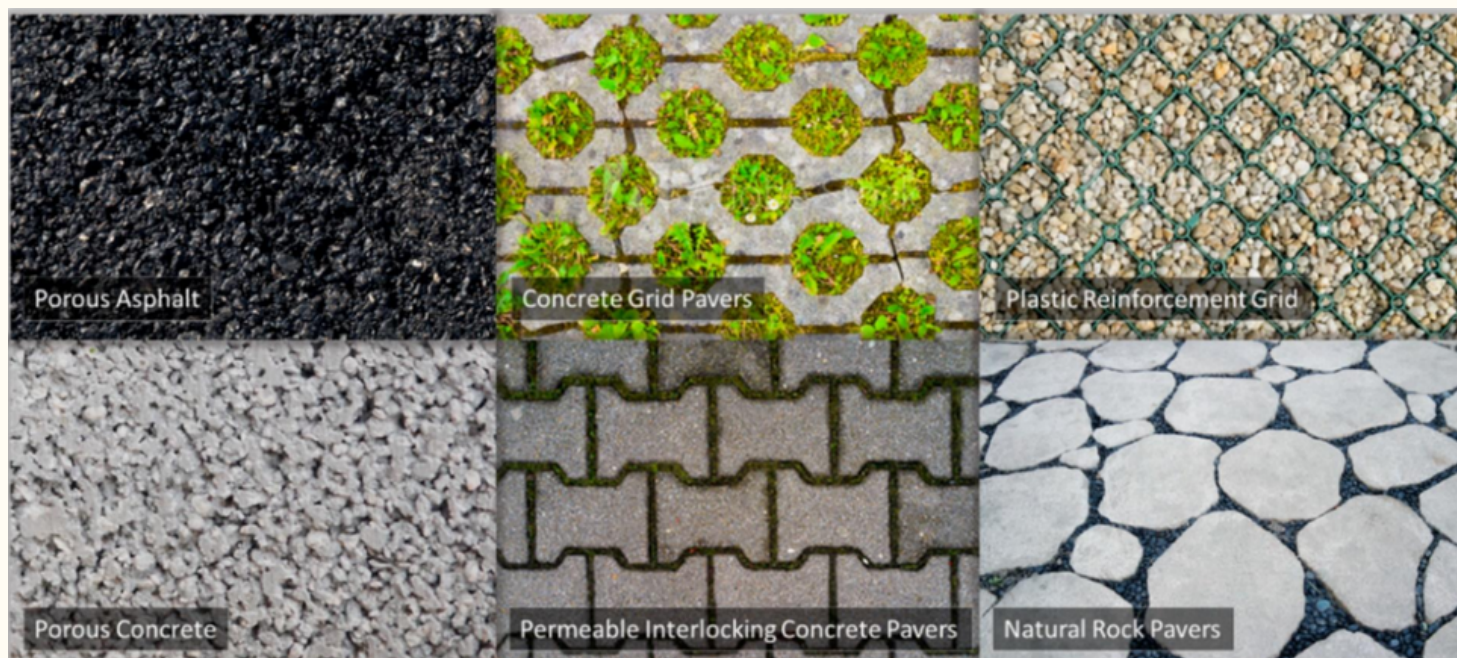
In 2019, Congress enacted the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act where green infrastructure is defined as “ the range of measures that use plant or soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscape to store, infiltrate or evapotranspire stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters.” Methods involve downspout disconnection, rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, planter boxes, bioswales, permeable pavements, green streets and alleys, green parking, green roofs, tree canopy, and land conservation.

Permeable pavements or pervious pavements infiltrate, treat, and/or store rainwater where it falls. Versions of pervious pavement includes:

- Porous pavement (asphalt)
- Pervious concrete
- Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavement (PICP)
- Grass Pavers
- Paver Stones



- **Porous asphalt** (also called pervious, permeable, popcorn or open-graded asphalt) and **pervious concrete** (also called porous, gap-graded or enhanced porosity concrete) are types of traditional asphalt or concrete with reduced sand (made from recycled concrete aggregate) to allow for greater porosity and infiltration.
- **Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavement** (PICP) consists of manufactured concrete pavers with small openings between permeable joints that contain highly permeable, small sized aggregates.
- **Grass Pavers** are a mixture of traditional pavement and grass using interlocking concrete grids to sustain soil and naturally growing grass.
- **Paver Stones** are stones used to build flat, easily accessible surfaces for walkways, patios, driveways and pool decks. Almost any kind of rock can be made into a paver. For all surface types, proper installation is key to ensuring long term effectiveness.



A Matter of Ethics: Respect for the Process

An inquiry sent to info@ogunquitresidents.com:

"Would you consider starting an opinion/editorial page for people to write in about their concerns. The town does a wonderful job of keeping any problems/issues out of the limelight by controlling the discussion(s) held during the board meetings by limiting discussions to items on the agenda and limiting it to three minutes... limiting you to one question."

Select Board Code of Ethics: #4

*"Each member shall be committed to respect the democratic process that encourages meaningful involvement of the public and that governs the deliberations of public policy issues in the Town of Ogunquit.... Members should strive to thoughtfully consider the opinions and recommendations of other members, **citizens** and Town staff appearing before the Select Board and shall remain respectful in all interactions with these individuals."*

The lack of citizen participation at Select Board meetings has been an ongoing problem for some time. When the Town Meeting process is working properly, the line up of people waiting to express their opinions is a common sight. The failure of the process that was created in the 1600's to ensure residents' input into decisions affecting their lives and well being is a serious turn of events.

It's not difficult to understand how this has happened as the unpredictably rude and dismissive attitude of the Select Board towards those who come forward to express opinions not to their liking makes it an unpleasant experience.

Why would anyone want to offer an opposing view or ask a question when they risk being silenced or belittled?

The only discussions commonly heard are those between the Select Board members themselves followed by a 5-0 vote on a majority of their decisions. This is a Board in lockstep with one another when it should be exploring a varied number of ideas before reaching a conclusion. There's no shame in a 3-2 vote.

It's a troubling state of affairs when a resident's only recourse for being heard is to resort to putting questions and opinions in writing as the only option.

Why is the Select Board failing to follow #4 of its Code of Ethics?

Would someone be willing to ask them at their next meeting?

Maine Healthy Beaches

Enterococci Bacteria Counts

Safety threshold in marine waters:

104 MPN/100mL

August 17/2023	Riverside Beach	336
August 22/2023	Riverside Beach	121
August 30/2023	Riverside Beach	52

Performing Arts Concert Occidental Gypsy

September 15th has been cancelled due to closure of the Auditorium in the Dunaway



Hopefully to be rescheduled soon!

Final Plover Count

There were 24 fledglings in Ogunquit, 2 in Moody, and 29 in Wells, a relief to the worries that the rainy weather that had damaged nests would seriously reduce the count!



The Breeze welcomes your questions on Town issues. Your confidentiality will be maintained. Comments are moderated for relevance and civility.

Sign up at ogunquitbreeze@gmail.com