



GARDINER CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET



Meeting Date	02/18/2026	Department	Planning/Economic Dev
Agenda Item	4K.) Consideration of Support and Possible Partnership for Bowdoinham's BRIC Grant Application for Merrymeeting Trail Design & Engineering		
Est. Cost			

Background Information

The town of Bowdoinham intends to apply for a federal Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for Merrymeeting Trail design and engineering. They have reached out to the municipalities of Gardiner and Richmond regarding formal letters of support for their application for planning the section of the trail in Bowdoinham.

Additionally, Bowdoinham presented the opportunity to be a partnering community in the grant application for a collaborative and cohesive effort in the planning of the project across the three municipalities. In this situation, the City of Gardiner would authorize Bowdoinham to apply on behalf of our city to include Gardiner's section of the trail in their scope of the project in the grant application.

This is a no cash match grant. Municipal support would be in-kind. If awarded, Bowdoinham would be the grant administrator responsible for managing the federal funds. Gardiner's commitment would be in staff time to collaborate on the project development, support grant reporting requirements, and for planning community engagement activities. As a project with an impact on the local economy, most of this in-kind commitment would likely be from the economic development director, with other staff involvement as needed.

The Council is asked to consider the two options:

1. Write a letter of support for Bowdoinham's application to design and engineer the trail in their town.
2. Authorize Bowdoinham to apply for this funding on Gardiner's behalf to include its portion of the trail in the project scope with a commitment to work with the town in carrying out and completing the project.

Requested Action	(1)"I move to approve the Interim City Manager to write a letter of support for the town of Bowdoinham in the planning of the Merrymeeting Trail in their town." OR (2)"I move to approve the authorization of the town of Bowdoinham to apply on behalf of the City of Gardiner for a BRIC grant for Merrymeeting Trail design and engineering, inclusive of the trail portion in Gardiner."
City Manager and/or Finance Review	
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____