



Ogunquit This Week

The week ahead, and what your boards decided

Friday, September 18, 2026

Inside this week's issue: WOCSD's Volunteers of the Year, school news and upcoming dates, decisions from Ogunquit's boards, and a Maine Turnpike clearing notice.

IN FOCUS • WELLS-OGUNQUIT C.S.D.

WOCSD names Volunteers of the Year



Allison Goodwin, Betsy Morales, and Barbara Maurer — WOCSD Volunteers of the Year 2025-2026.

The Wells-Ogunquit Community School District congratulates Allison Goodwin, Betsy Morales, and Barbara Maurer as Volunteers of the Year for 2025-2026. The district honored the three volunteers at its June 4 celebration.

If you are interested in volunteering in the WOCSD, call 646-5953 and ask for Tina Chandler.

YOUR BOARDS DECIDED

Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee • Wed, Sep 16

Members agreed informally to move to 3:30 p.m.; no formal vote was taken.

[Read the decision, p. 3](#)

Select Board Meeting • Tue, Sep 15

Approved 5-0, setting the tax rate at \$6.50 per \$1,000 for FY 2026-2027.

[Read the decision, p. 5](#)

NEXT MEETINGS

Wed, Sep 23 • 10:00 AM
Ogunquit Historic Preservation
Commission - 2nd Meeting

Thu, Sep 24 • 11:00 AM
Ogunquit River Watershed Committee

[Full list, p. 2](#)

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Sunset and tides

Low tide 11:52 AM • Sunset 6:46 PM

The Week Ahead

September 18 – September 25, 2026

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

10:00 AM

MEETING

Ogunquit Historic Preservation Commission - 2nd Meeting
[Agenda](#)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

11:00 AM

MEETING

Ogunquit River Watershed Committee
[Agenda](#)

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Pickleball open play

Mon, Wed & Fri · 8–11 AM · Agamenticus Park

[Details](#)

Intermediate and advanced tennis group

Tue & Thu · 6 PM · Agamenticus Park

[Details](#)

Ogunquit senior tennis league

Mon, Wed & Fri · 8–10 AM · Agamenticus Park

[Details](#)

From the Boardroom

Editorial summaries, not official minutes.

BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE / WED, SEP 16

Detective warns of alcohol-fueled e-scooter injuries as Bike-Pedestrian Committee meets without a quorum

[Watch the recording](#)

[Read the agenda](#)

Your Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee spent much of its September 16 meeting hearing from Detective Joe LaBier, who said drunken riding of small motorized scooters — often around bar-closing time — sent people to the hospital this summer. Because the scooters' motors are too small to count as motor vehicles under Maine law, he said there is no drunk-driving charge to bring, and few riders wear helmets or protective gear. The committee tied this to its ongoing push for clearer state rules on e-bikes and micromobility.

No formal decisions were made. The committee lacked a quorum after member Ramsey Lafayette's appointment lapsed and another member dropped off the call, so it could not approve minutes or vote. Members still talked through bike racks, sidewalk grant funding, and the town's Bike Friendly designation, and agreed informally to use the October 21 meeting as a workshop.

❶ Police report drunken e-scooter crashes over the summer

Detective Joe LaBier described several recent incidents, mostly late at night near closing time, in which impaired riders on small motorized scooters were injured — one seriously. He explained that because the scooters' motors fall below Maine's wattage threshold, they are not treated as motor vehicles, so there is no impaired-driving offense. He noted riders typically wear no helmets or protective gear, and that riders ranged in age from their early 20s to mid-40s. He also cautioned that inexpensive scooters can accelerate faster than people expect.

❷ Committee asks police for seasonal crash data

The committee asked Detective LaBier to compile crash and injury numbers for the season, similar to the report provided last year, including rider ages where allowed. He agreed to put it together but said it may not be ready by the next meeting because scooter incidents are logged in a separate system from traffic crashes and must be pulled by hand. He noted some investigative details cannot be publicly disclosed.

❸ National Night Out recap with Wells Police

Detective LaBier described the August 4 National Night Out held with the Wells Police Department. A Wells sergeant set up a tabletop

Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee • continued from page 3

bicycle-safety course with small plastic bikes and literature, borrowed from a hospital, that drew strong interest from families. Organizers handed out bike lights, reflective gear, and other giveaways. The committee chair was unable to attend.

4 Micromobility education and state legislation

Members discussed a national On Point radio segment on e-bike and micromobility rules, which highlighted confusion among the different classes of e-bikes and faster "e-moto" style vehicles that manufacturers sometimes pass off as ordinary e-bikes. The chair asked members who had not yet listened to do so before October so they can share opinions. The committee's printed tri-fold brochure and its goal of gaining traction on Maine regulation were also noted.

5 Members discuss an October Bike Friendly Community workshop

NO VOTE

No formal vote; members agreed informally to hold the workshop at the October 21 meeting.

The committee discussed devoting its October meeting to reviewing the League of American Bicyclists survey results and report card, with an eye toward moving Ogunquit from its current bronze Bike Friendly designation toward silver. Members also planned to check whether five additional award signs for the town lines have arrived, following up with staff who handle purchasing. Because there was no quorum, the plan was informal rather than a formal vote.

6 Bike racks, Village Partnership painting, and sidewalk grant

Two new four-loop bike racks have been installed — one by the Jacob's Lot restrooms and one in the scooter corral at Main Beach — and members said the Main Beach racks are well used. On the Village Partnership Initiative, some Public Works painting is done and the committee still needs to send the Select Board an official recommendation, with cost estimates, for further items. On the two costly sidewalk projects, members said the town's stormwater (MS4) obligations and existing repairs make grant funding a long process that is not a near-term priority.

7 Members discuss a 3:30 p.m. meeting time

Members agreed informally to move to 3:30 p.m.; no formal vote was taken.

To ease travel and scheduling for members, the committee discussed shifting its regular start time from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. going forward. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21. Because the meeting had no quorum, the change was agreed informally.

AT A GLANCE

October Bike Friendly Community workshop discussed — No formal vote; members agreed informally to hold the workshop at the October 21 meeting.

Meeting time moving to 3:30 p.m. — Members agreed informally to move to 3:30 p.m.; no formal vote was taken.

Police report drunken e-scooter crashes over the summer

Committee asks police for seasonal crash data

SELECT BOARD MEETING / TUE, SEP 15

Ogunquit cuts its tax rate 3.4% as the Select Board sets a \$6.50 mill rate

[Watch the recording](#)

[Read the agenda](#)

Your Select Board set the 2026-2027 tax rate at \$6.50 per \$1,000 of value, a 23-cent drop from last year and a 3.4% cut. Assessor Michelle McDonald walked the Board through the numbers and recommended the figure, which passed 5-0. The assessor certified the town's assessment ratio at 79%, which reduces some exemptions, including the homestead exemption, this year. The Board discussed those effects in detail. Members also renewed clam licenses with a new free senior category and approved November's Special Town Meeting warrant articles.

The longest debate came over a proposed "Kirsten's Crossover" memorial sign honoring the late Kirsten Ross. After a tie vote, the Board approved the designation for one year and directed itself to write a town policy or ordinance on naming public assets. The Board also launched new Dunaway Center programs and heard an update on the state's MS4 stormwater requirement.

8 Tax rate drops to \$6.50 per \$1,000

VOTE

Approved 5-0, setting the tax rate at \$6.50 per \$1,000 for FY 2026-2027.

Assessor Michelle McDonald presented the tax commitment and overlay, reporting that the town's total valuation rose about 1.37% and recommending a tax rate of \$6.50 per \$1,000 — a 23-cent (3.4%) decrease. She certified the town's assessment ratio at 79% and explained that state-reimbursed exemptions such as the homestead exemption are adjusted downward this year. Member Ouellette and others asked how the ratio and exemption changes affect taxpayers.

9 "Kirsten's Crossover" memorial approved for one year

VOTE

Approved 3-1 for a one-year designation, with the Board tasked to draft a naming policy or ordinance.

Members Nobile and Ouellette pulled this from the consent agenda to debate whether the town should first adopt a policy for naming public assets. Nobile read an anonymous resident letter urging a formal, transparent naming process before dedicating one of the town's few beach crossovers. Chair Whitelaw argued a small memorial sign for Kirsten Ross, a longtime advocate for the coast and piping plovers, did not require an ordinance. Elaine Cooper, who made the request, and Conservation Commission Chair Wendy Levine (by Zoom) spoke in favor.

With Member Vogel gone and the Board split, an initial motion failed on a tie. The Board then approved designating the crossover near markers 3 and 4 as Kirsten's Crossover for one year while it develops a naming policy or ordinance. Final sign design and placement will return for approval.

10 Clam licenses renewed with new free senior category

VOTE

Approved 5-0 for the license prices and sale, November 2026 through March 2027.

Len Pierce presented the Shellfish Conservation Commission's recommendations for FY 2026-2027, largely consistent with prior years, with digging every other Sunday beginning November 1. Under an ordinance residents

Select Board Meeting • continued from page 5

approved this past June, the town now offers a new license category for residents and taxpayers over 65 — the recommendation allows up to 10 free senior licenses this year. Pierce also reported the commission and a DMR representative completed a fall survey of the clam flats, the first in many years, with help from several volunteers. No one spoke at the public hearing.

11 Board weighs a new framework for its committees

NO VOTE

No vote taken; the draft will go to committee chairs for input, with possible formal action in the fall.

Members Nobile and Ouellette presented a draft plan to standardize how the Select Board communicates with, supports, and reviews the town's many boards and committees — including annual work plans tied to the comprehensive plan, clearer liaison duties, and regular reporting. Ouellette said the review would evaluate committee functions, not individuals, and ask whether long-standing committees remain relevant. Residents Rick Dolliver and Jay (Jerry) Smith raised questions about a code of ethics and about how and when to engage Select Board liaisons. The Board agreed not to vote yet, planning to send the draft to committee chairs for feedback and revisit it in October and November.

12 Update on state stormwater (MS4) requirement

The Town Manager reported that the state Department of Environmental Protection rescinded its earlier demand that Ogunquit

enroll immediately, placing the town in a cohort that must be ready by July — which eases time pressure. Staff are meeting roughly every other week, building baseline inventories and working with regional partners (SMPDC) alongside other newly designated communities. Chair Whitelaw stressed the need to meet the state mandate while protecting the town's character, and staff said the town's existing conservation and water-quality work already meets many requirements and could open the door to grant funding. A fuller update is planned for the first meeting in November.

13 New Dunaway Center programs: Mah Jongg and a town-wide read

VOTE

Approved 5-0, endorsing the pilot Mah Jongg program and development of One Book, One Community.

Member Ouellette pulled this from consent so the public could hear the details. A town staff member described launching a small pilot Mah Jongg group next month, potentially expanding it, alongside the popular senior exercise class that now draws about 50 people. She also outlined "One Book, One Community," a town-wide read with discussion groups and a visiting Maine author, developed with support from the Ogunquit Library and local Chamber. Members welcomed broader community use of the completed Dunaway Center.

Select Board Meeting • continued from page 6

AT A GLANCE

Tax rate drops to \$6.50 per \$1,000 — Approved 5-0 for FY 2026-2027.

"Kirsten's Crossover" memorial approved for one year — Approved 3-1 for a one-year designation, with the Board tasked to draft a naming policy or ordinance.

Clam licenses renewed with new free senior category — Approved 5-0 for the license prices and sale, November 2026 through March 2027.

Board weighs a new framework for its committees — No vote taken; the draft will go to committee chairs for input, with possible formal action in the fall.

PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP / MON, SEP 14

Planning Board maps where denser housing can go — steering it to Route 1 and away from neighborhoods

[Watch the recording](#)

[Read the agenda](#)

Your Planning Board spent its September 14 workshop shaping how Ogunquit will meet a state requirement to designate a "growth area" where housing can be built more densely. Maine law now pushes towns to allow more homes — including smaller lots and multi-unit buildings — in places served by public water and sewer. The Board's working direction is to make the merged General Business District along Route 1 the town's growth area, while keeping downtown and residential streets out of it, to protect parking, traffic, and what members called the town's "charm."

The Board also worked through draft ordinance language to fold the One Family Residential district into the general Residential district and to add municipal (town-owned) buildings and uses to the town's conditional zoning rules. No votes were taken — this was a workshop. The Chair will turn the night's notes into revised drafts for another workshop before anything goes to the public.

14 General Business District would become the town's growth area

State law (Title 30-A) requires towns to name a growth area where development is directed, and in a growth area with public water and sewer the minimum lot size drops to 5,000 square feet with up to four units allowed. Members worried that applying this downtown or on quiet residential streets would overwhelm parking and traffic and let developers tear down homes for four-unit buildings. Their working plan is to merge the two general business zones (GB1 and GB2) into a single General Business District along Route 1

PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP • continued from page 7

and make that the growth area, leaving residential districts and the Limited Business District out. Members noted qualified affordable-housing projects could exceed the height limit by one story (about 14 feet).

15 Downtown would be renamed and expanded as a "Village District"

To keep the busiest, most walkable core out of the denser growth rules, the Board discussed pulling the Downtown Business District out of the growth area, renaming it the "Village District," and expanding it northward roughly toward the Grasshopper Inn and Church Street. Members talked through where to draw the lines to include landmarks like the greenery and certain inns while leaving some outlying hotels in the general business zone. The aim, the Chair said, is to keep the area walkable and preserve storefronts rather than let residences "choke out" the shops.

16 One Family Residential district folded into Residential

The Board reviewed draft edits to delete the One Family Residential (OFR) district and treat those areas as regular Residential (R), including allowing two-to-four-family dwellings where public water and sewer exist. Members also discussed lowering site plan review to a simple permit for multifamily dwellings, noting the state bars towns from adding review hurdles in these zones that regular residential development doesn't face. Design review already in place in the business district would remain.

17 Bed-and-breakfasts would stay out of residential zones

Because converting OFR to Residential would newly allow bed-and-breakfasts (a transient accommodation type) in those areas, the Board discussed keeping them not permitted in residential districts, with any existing ones grandfathered. Members treated a broader crackdown on short-term rentals as a separate, bigger issue to handle another time. Several noted concern that inns and bed-and-breakfasts are already being converted to short-term rentals, costing the town businesses.

18 Adding municipal buildings and uses to conditional zoning

The Board worked on language to let town-owned (municipal) buildings, structures, and uses be approved through conditional zoning in allowed districts, while keeping them not permitted in shoreland zones. Members debated whether to reference "public" or "municipal" buildings so the rule couldn't be used to open something like a public gym, and pointed to the old town garage as an example of a town property that might get a new use. They also reviewed a draft definition of "light industry," recalling the existing use up Captain Thomas Road where sets and props are built.

19 Next steps

The Chair said he would compile the night's notes into cleaner draft ordinance language and maps for the next workshop, where the Board plans to narrow the details further before preparing something to present to the public. Any zoning changes would ultimately go to the voters.

PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP • continued from page 8

AT A GLANCE

General Business District would become the town's growth area

Downtown would be renamed and expanded as a "Village District"

One Family Residential district folded into Residential

Bed-and-breakfasts would stay out of residential zones

Around Town

WELLS-OGUNQUIT C.S.D.

Wells High Homecoming and upcoming school dates

Wells High School's Homecoming week was scheduled for Sept. 14-18, 2026. The week's program included class competitions, sports events, a pep rally, and a parade along Route 1, with a home varsity football game and dance scheduled for Friday, Sept. 18.

In his Sept. 16 update, Superintendent James P. Daly reported a strong opening of schools across Wells Elementary, Wells Junior High, and Wells High. Students and faculty returned with energy and positive attitudes as new routines took hold. The update encouraged support for the Marching Band, Color Guard, and school athletes.

Looking ahead: the update lists a Marching Band competition for Saturday, Sept. 26 at Warrior Memorial Field. School photo dates are WES Sept. 24, WJHS Sept. 30, and WHS Oct. 21. Early-release Wednesdays dismiss WHS at 12:40 p.m., WJHS at 12:50 p.m., and WES at 1:45 p.m.

AT A GLANCE

51

Ogunquit students
enrolled

As of Sept. 1, 2026

1,434

WOCSD total
enrollment

Wells 1,356 • Other 27

Superintendent's
Update,
Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D.,
Sept. 16, 2026

MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

Turnpike clearing planned in York, Ogunquit, and Wells

The Maine Turnpike Authority will conduct vegetation clearing along portions of the Turnpike right-of-way as part of this year's clearing project.

Work extends along the northbound side from Exit 7 in York (mile marker 7) to Littlefield Road (mile marker 17.3) in Wells, through York, Ogunquit, and Wells. A portion also runs southbound from Berwick Road (mile marker 14) south to Exit 7.

Turnpike clearing planned in York, Ogunquit, and Wells · continued from page 9

Clearing generally removes vegetation within 135 feet of the Turnpike centerline, leaving about a 15-foot buffer to the right-of-way fence. Widths will be adjusted to protect wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, rare plants, and neighboring viewsheds. Work typically begins after the onset of winter.

Town officials received advance notice from Sean C. Paulhus, Government Relations Manager at the Maine Turnpike Authority. Questions: 207-482-8159 or spaulhus@maineturnpike.com.

By the Sea

Sunrise, sunset and tides · Cape Neddick
Weather outlook as of Tue 10:03 PM

DAY	WEATHER · HIGH / LOW °F	SUNRISE	SUNSET	TIDES · MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT
Fri, Sep 18	—	6:25 AM	6:48 PM	H 5:01a L 10:56a H 5:09p L 11:46p
Sat, Sep 19	—	6:26 AM	6:46 PM	H 5:58a L 11:52a H 6:07p
Sun, Sep 20	—	6:27 AM	6:44 PM	L 12:47a H 6:58a L 12:52p H 7:08p
Mon, Sep 21	—	6:28 AM	6:42 PM	L 1:48a H 7:57a L 1:53p H 8:06p
Tue, Sep 22	☁ Partly Cloudy / 41°	6:29 AM	6:40 PM	L 2:43a H 8:49a L 2:49p H 8:58p
Wed, Sep 23	☀ Sunny 61° / 41°	6:30 AM	6:39 PM	L 3:29a H 9:35a L 3:36p H 9:44p
Thu, Sep 24	☀ Sunny 62° / 47°	6:31 AM	6:37 PM	L 4:08a H 10:14a L 4:18p H 10:26p
Fri, Sep 25	☁ Partly Sunny then Chance Rain Showers 65° / 52°	6:32 AM	6:35 PM	L 4:44a H 10:51a L 4:59p H 11:06p

A dash means no forecast was supplied for that date; it does not mean clear weather.

A LITTLE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Do you know Ogunquit?

Answer to Fri, Sep 11

Hamilton Easter Field.

[Source: Bowdoin College Museum of Art](#)

This week's question

What musical instrument supplied the wood for Ogunquit Memorial Library's grandfather clock?

Answer in next week's issue, with a new question.

STAY CONNECTED

[Agendas, minutes & meeting recordings](#)

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This newsletter provides convenient summaries of public Town information. Agendas, minutes, recordings, and official notices remain the authoritative record.