



Ogunquit *This Week*

The week ahead, and what your boards decided

Friday, October 2, 2026

Week of Oct 2–9

TODAY

Ogunquit Performing Arts Committee

SKY AND SEA

Chance Rain Showers · 82° / 52° · Sunrise
6:40 AM · Sunset 6:22 PM · High tide 3:39 AM,
3:52 PM · Low tide 9:42 AM, 10:30 PM

NEXT MEETINGS

Oct 2 · Ogunquit Performing Arts
Committee; Oct 5 · Marginal Way Committee



PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP · SEP 28

A new "growth area" to allow smaller lots and duplexes

At a September 28 workshop, the Planning Board drafted zoning changes that would allow smaller lots and duplexes in a proposed growth area. No vote was taken; a public hearing and town ballot vote would be needed before any change takes effect.

5,000 sq ft minimum lot · One parking space per home in the draft

[Read the full story](#)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE BOARDROOM

Select Board sends committees a new framework

Board weighs a construction-noise complaint

[More meeting business inside](#)

AROUND TOWN

The Maxwell House fire of August 1968

Beyond the Bell: Firemen's Field Days

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WORKSHOP

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Sky, sea and the calendar

Cape Neddick · Forecast as of Fri, Oct 2, 12:18 PM

DAY	WEATHER · HIGH / LOW °F	TIDES · MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT				SUNRISE / SUNSET
		6 AM	NOON	6 PM		
Fri Oct 2	 Chance Rain Showers 82° / 52°	H 3:39a	L 9:42a	H 3:52p	L 10:30p	6:40 AM 6:22 PM
Sat Oct 3	 Sunny 67° / 42°	H 4:42a	L 10:43a	H 4:57p	L 11:36p	6:41 AM 6:20 PM
Sun Oct 4	 Mostly Sunny 61° / 48°	H 5:50a	L 11:50a	H 6:07p		6:42 AM 6:19 PM
Mon Oct 5	 Mostly Sunny 67° / 42°	L 12:45a	H 7:00a	L 1:02p	H 7:19p	6:44 AM 6:17 PM
Tue Oct 6	 Sunny 57° / 39°	L 1:55a	H 8:08a	L 2:13p	H 8:27p	6:45 AM 6:15 PM
Wed Oct 7	 Sunny 59° / 44°	L 2:57a	H 9:07a	L 3:17p	H 9:27p	6:46 AM 6:13 PM
Thu Oct 8	 Sunny 64° / 49°	L 3:50a	H 9:59a	L 4:12p	H 10:20p	6:47 AM 6:12 PM
Fri Oct 9	No forecast	L 4:38a	H 10:45a	L 5:02p	H 11:10p	6:48 AM 6:10 PM

 daylight, sunrise to sunset  high tide  low tide One bar per day, midnight to midnight. The issue date is shaded.

"No forecast" means none was supplied for that date; it does not mean clear weather.

On the calendar

FRI OCT 2	MEETING 10:30 AM Ogunquit Performing Arts Committee
MON OCT 5	MEETING 4:00 PM Marginal Way Committee
TUE OCT 6	MEETING 9:00 AM Select Board Meeting MEETING 4:00 PM Budget Review Committee
WED OCT 7	MEETING 10:30 AM Conservation Commission

Every week

- [Pickleball open play](#)
Mon, Wed & Fri · 8–11 AM
- [Intermediate and advanced tennis group](#)
Tue & Thu · 6 PM
- [Ogunquit senior tennis league](#)
Mon, Wed & Fri · 8–10 AM
All: Agamenticus Park

Mostly sunny weekend

Sat Oct 3: Sunny, high 67° · Sun Oct 4: Mostly Sunny, high 61°

Planning Board drafts denser-housing zoning to meet state affordable-housing law

Agenda and recording

Your Planning Board used its September 28 workshop to draft zoning changes built around a proposed "growth area." Members worked through the ordinance line by line; no votes were taken.

① A new "growth area" to allow smaller lots and duplexes

No vote

5,000 sq ft

Minimum lot in growth area with public water and sewer

49 ft

Max height for qualified affordable housing developments

120%

Cap on York County median income for affordable housing

Because this was a workshop, your Planning Board made no decisions — it worked line by line through a draft of zoning changes. The goal is to meet Maine's affordable-housing law by creating a "growth area," the merged General Business District, where housing can be denser. Members agreed on the draft to delete the One Family Residential district and rename it Residential (R), drop the second General Business zone (GB2) and merge it into a single General Business District, and rename the Downtown Business District to the Village Business District. In the growth area, the minimum lot with public water and sewer would fall to 5,000 square feet, required parking would drop to one space per dwelling, and qualified affordable-housing buildings could rise to 49 feet and three and a half stories.

The Board also talked about lowering building coverage in the Residential district to 20 percent, keeping 75-foot frontage, and possibly merging the two rural residential zones, RR1 and RR2. New definitions would set affordability at no more than 120 percent of York County median income. Several questions were flagged for the town's planner before the language is finalized.

Required parking per dwelling unit in growth areas

Now: 2 spaces per unit

Draft: 1 space per unit

WHY IT MATTERS

These changes would carry out a state affordable-housing law by allowing smaller lots, duplexes, reduced parking, and taller affordable-housing buildings in a designated growth area. They would need a public hearing and a town ballot vote before taking effect.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Chair will finalize the draft language for the Board to review at its next workshop.

Oct 13, 2026 • Next workshop

Source: Planning Board workshop, Sept. 28; growth-area discussion.

PATH FOR THE ZONING CHANGES

1. Workshop drafting

The Board is refining draft language for the growth area and district changes across several workshops.

2. Public hearing

A public hearing would be held on the proposed changes.

3. Town ballot vote

The changes would go to voters on the ballot to take effect.



Planning Board handles a full agenda at Sept. 28 meeting

Agenda and recording

At its September 28 meeting, the Planning Board approved a motel entrance change and August minutes, discussed a construction-noise complaint, and planned its review of a Select Board committee framework.

2 Footbridge Beach Motel gets OK to move a front door

Approved · 3-0

At 668 Main Street, the owner proposed swapping a window and the caretaker's cottage door during permitted re-siding so motel guests reach the office rather than the adjoining residence. The Board found the application complete, then approved the design change in a separate motion. No site visit or public hearing was required.

Source: Planning Board, Sept. 28; New Business 6.1.

3 August minutes approved

Approved · 3-0

With no corrections offered, the Board approved the minutes of its August 24, 2026 meeting.

Source: Planning Board, Sept. 28; agenda item 3.1.

4 Board weighs a construction-noise complaint

No vote

During public comment, the Chair read an email from a resident asking the Board to amend the ordinance so noisy building work ends by 6 p.m., with a ban on weekend and holiday work.

4 · Board weighs a construction-noise complaint · continued

The resident described weeks of jackhammering and said the current rules — a 7 a.m. start, an 8 p.m. finish, and weekend work allowed with the owner's written permission — favor developers. Code officer Tyler McOsker said he had spoken with the writer, and that shortening hours tends to lengthen a project rather than reduce its noise. Members discussed, but did not favor, a new 'hammering' ordinance or notifying abutters of every permit, noting blasting is already tightly regulated. No vote was taken; the Chair offered to draft a written response and the Board set the matter aside for now.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Chair offered to draft an email response to the resident who raised the concern.

Source: Planning Board, Sept. 28; public comments and other business.

5 Select Board sends committees a new framework

No vote

The Select Board sent committee chairs a draft framework for their work. The Planning Board will review it at its October 13 workshop. A response to the Select Board is due October 15.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Board will review the framework at its next workshop; a response to the Select Board is due October 15.

Oct 13, 2026 · Planning Board workshop

Source: Planning Board, Sept. 28; Select Board framework discussion.

Ogunquit Fire at 125

The Maxwell House fire of August 1968



Undated archival group portrait included with the Fire Department remembrance.

On the evening of August 14, 1968, a fire broke out at the Maxwell House in Ogunquit Center. The building was a historic former resort hotel, and the fire began around 8:30 p.m. For those who witnessed it, a major fire in the center of a coastal community was not simply an emergency scene. It drew the attention of the entire town. Residents watched firefighters work while departments relied on the apparatus, water supplies, communications, protective clothing, and tactics available at the time. Historic fire photographs often capture the flames and smoke, but they cannot fully show the work taking place around them.

Firefighters operated hose lines, moved equipment, protected nearby buildings, and worked alongside mutual-aid partners. Families and community members waited for news while local businesses faced the possibility of permanent loss. The Maxwell House fire became part of Ogunquit's collective memory and part of the history carried forward by the Fire Department. As we mark our 125th anniversary, we remember the firefighters who responded to emergencies such as this one. Their experiences helped shape the training, equipment, planning, and mutual-aid relationships used by later generations.



Members of the Ogunquit Fire Department in 2007.

Ogunquit Fire at 125

Beyond the Bell: Firemen's Field Days



A scene from an Ogunquit firemen's muster; date not recorded.

Firemen's Field Days, often called musters, were part of Ogunquit's fire-service tradition beyond emergency calls and training. Fire companies tested equipment and skill while firefighters, families and neighbors gathered with nearby departments.

Photographs, equipment and trophies preserved by the Ogunquit Fire Company recall teamwork, friendly competition and department pride. As the department marks 125 years, it remembers the traditions that brought firefighters and the community together.

Do you remember an Ogunquit muster? Share memories and photographs with the Fire Company. Its 125th-anniversary open house is Saturday, October 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 15 School Street, with history displays, hands-on CPR, children's activities and fire-safety exhibits. All are welcome.

Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D.

This week in our schools

In his Sept. 30 update, Superintendent James P. Daly reports that Niche ranks the district first in York County and eighth in Maine. Sept. 1 enrollment was 1,434.

Friday, Oct. 2: Warrior Football Military Appreciation Night honors veterans and service members at Warrior Memorial Field. Ceremony 5:45 p.m.; Wells–Gardiner kickoff 6:30 p.m.

Daly thanked custodians and recognized WJHS Grade 7 leader Ryan Danley for a Wells and Ogunquit beach cleanup.

OCT. 3	Band · Lawrence H.S.	
OCT. 8	WJHS Music Night	
OCT. 17	Band · Westbrook H.S.	
OCT. 20	Grade 8 at Ogunquit Playhouse	
OCT. 21	WHS Picture Day	
OCT. 29 / NOV. 5	WJHS conferences: remote Oct. 29; in person Nov. 5	
WEDNESDAYS	Early dismissal: WHS 12:40 p.m., WJHS 12:50 p.m., WES 1:45 p.m.	
51 Students from Ogunquit	OCT 9 & 12 No school	OCT 22-24 School play: Hot Lunch

School play: Hot Lunch: WJHS Drama Club at WJHS Ward Gymnasium: Thu 4 p.m., Fri 6 p.m., Sat 11 a.m.; \$5 at the door

Source: WOCSO superintendent update, Sept. 30, 2026

DO YOU KNOW OGUNQUIT?

ANSWER TO SEP 18

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

A piano: Luther Weare used its black walnut case.

[Ogunquit Memorial Library — History of the Library](#)

What kind of building housed the Ogunquit Playhouse when Walter and Maude Hartwig opened it in 1933?

Answer in the next issue, with a new question.

What happens next

Dated steps from this week's stories and the town calendar, with the page of each story.

OCT 2	<u>Ogunquit Performing Arts Committee, 10:30 AM</u>	
OCT 5	<u>Marginal Way Committee, 4:00 PM</u>	
OCT 6	<u>Select Board Meeting, 9:00 AM</u>	
	<u>Budget Review Committee, 4:00 PM</u>	
OCT 7	<u>Conservation Commission, 10:30 AM</u>	
OCT 13	<u>A new "growth area" to allow smaller lots and duplexes</u>	p. 3
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STAY CONNECTED

[Agendas, minutes & meeting recordings](#)

[Town of Ogunquit website](#)

WHERE THIS ISSUE COMES FROM

[Planning Board Workshop · Sep 28](#)

[Planning Board - 2nd Meeting · Sep 28](#)

FOLLOWING A MEETING

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



A bench overlooking the Ogunquit coast.