STATE OF MAINE
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING RESOURCE PACKAGE
Spring 2017

Welcome to the comprehensive planning process!

Whether you are working on your community's first comprehensive plan or are updating an existing plan, Maine's state agencies and regional planning organizations wish to provide as much assistance as possible to help your planning committee be efficient and productive.

Though locally-sourced information is indispensable, our resource packages are designed to provide most of the data needed to answer the analysis questions found in the Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule. In this way, we hope to reduce the time and effort that your committee needs to spend on data collection, so that it can concentrate more on planning for your community's future.

All of the information in your resource package is provided electronically.

Resource Package Overview

What's Inside?

The Resource Package contains a combination of raw data, analyzed data and technical assistance materials designed to help with the development of your comprehensive plan. Most of the data pertain specifically to your municipality. Once you become familiar with it, we believe you'll find the resource package to be extremely useful as you move through the comprehensive planning process.

Maps

A series of maps are included with your package. Maps are provided electronically as Adobe PDF's. Due to budget constraints, we are unable to provide hard copies of these maps.

Other Resources

Here are some other resources to review as you begin the development of your town's comprehensive plan. These are only some of the resources available from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. Please contact the Department at 287-3860 if you have additional questions.

Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule

This Rule is designed to streamline the State review process and clarify the criteria that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry will use to determine a comprehensive plan's consistency with the Growth Management Act. The Rule and associated material can be found on the Municipal Planning Assistance Program web page at: http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/07/105/105c208.doc.

Publications

- ***Comprehensive Planning: A Manual for Maine Communities***
  This manual is written for citizen planners: the members of a comprehensive planning committee, boards of selectmen, or planning boards charged with preparing a comprehensive plan, and the many parties of interest who may be participating or advising in the process. It is part "how-to," part suggestions for policy, and part tool box. It is available at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/2005manual_lowres.pdf.
- ***Community Visioning Handbook***
  This handbook describes what a community vision is (Part 1), provides a step-by-step guide to creating a community vision (Part II), and gives an example of a vision from one Maine community (Part III). It is available at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/visioning.pdf.
- ***Updating Your Comprehensive Plan***
  This document provides recommendations for updating a comprehensive plan, based on years of experience with implementing plans under the Growth Management Act. It is available at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/updatemanual.doc.

Assistance from your Regional Planning Organization

Your regional planning commission or council of governments has extensive experience with the comprehensive planning process, including conducting visioning exercises, organizing effective public outreach efforts, garnering public input, analyzing data, and writing plans. Regional planning organizations work with multiple towns and so can provide examples of various approaches different planning committees have taken to address the issues that confront their towns. A map of Maine's planning regions and contact information for the Regional Planning Organization can be found at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/technical/regional_council.shtml.

Credits and Contacts

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