

May 12, 2017

Dear Comprehensive Plan Committee:

On behalf of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, we are pleased to be able to provide you with the accompanying Beginning with Habitat paper map set and information CD (sent separately), assembled to assist you in your local planning efforts. Included is a PDF document entitled: *Beginning with Habitat: Conserving Maine's Natural Landscape for Plants, Animals and People*. The purpose of this document is to help you use the Beginning with Habitat materials in responding to the State Planning Office's requirements for comprehensive plans. Additionally, each map includes detailed information within its legend to help you identify individual resources and to understand limitations of the data. The CD also includes a series of fact sheets that provide additional information regarding specific species and habitats known to occur within your town.

If at any time you have questions regarding these materials, their use and accuracy, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Beginning with Habitat staff is ready to assist you in employing resource information appropriately in guiding local future growth and development decisions. We also offer on-site public presentations to better familiarize your planning committee and other town residents with our program, the special natural resources that occur within your town, and options for better safeguarding resources for future generations. We would be happy to meet with your committee to discuss the comprehensive planning process and how to make the most of the BwH information attached. Please visit our web-site: www.beginningwithhabitat.org for additional information as well.

Sincerely,

Amanda Shearin,
Beginning with Habitat Program Coordinator

Bill Hancock,
Beginning with Habitat Cartographer and GIS