

HANCOCK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL FULL COMMISSION MEETING
May 26, 2009
Ellsworth Public Library, Ellsworth, Maine
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order: Chairman Rod Franzius called the meeting to order at 7:05P.M.

Roll Call: A quorum of FY 2008-2009 HCPC commissioners was present (14):

District I:

C. W. Comer (Sorrento), Dale Sprinkle (Surry), Peter Colman (Blue Hill), Charles Yeo (Eastbrook), and Thoma Watson (Gouldsboro).

District II:

Dave Milan (Bucksport), Dale Abernethy (Castine), Denis Blodgett (Brooksville) and Charlie Wiggins (Sedgwick)

District III:

Beverly Sanborn (Cranberry Isle), Rod Franzius (Hancock), County Commissioner Representative Steve Walton, Antonio Blasi (Hancock) and Tom Sidar (Hancock).

Others Present: Thomas Martin (HCPC Exec. Director), Sheri Walsh (HCPC Admin. Asst.), Jim Fisher (HCPC Senior Planner), guest speaker George Lapointe (Commissioner, Department of Marine Resources) and sign-in sheet, Ruth Franzius (Hancock), James Straubb, *The Ellsworth American*, and Hadley Friedman (Blue Hill).

Presentation: George Lapointe, Commissioner, Maine Department of Marine Resources was the guest speaker for the Annual Meeting. Mr. Lapointe has served in his current position for the past 10 years. As commissioner, he leads the management for the Department at local, state, regional, federal and international levels. Mr. Lapointe indicated that last year 223 million pounds of marine food product landings in Maine equaled \$363 million. Herring and lobsters made up 60% of the landings. He said the major trends are an increased reliance on lobster, increase of aquaculture, herring is less available locally, a decline in groundfish fishery, a decline in urchin fishery, and a low scallop abundance. He indicated the lobster fishery resource is in good condition. He reported that in Hancock County there were 19,336,838 pounds in lobster landings with had a value of \$68,889,836. Fourteen million pounds of herring were landed and 151,037 pounds of worms. The worms had a market value of \$5,211,708.. What can be done for the Marine Resource Economy? Sustainable Resource Management such a measures in place to prevent over-fishing. A suggested measure was to reduce the number of traps allowed in half. Another measure is to protect the working waterfront. There are currently 14 working waterfronts in the program. The working waterfronts support 450 boats, 650 jobs, landed 15 million pounds with an economic activity equating to \$70 million. He indicated that aquaculture has a great economic potential. In Hancock County there are currently 4 finfish leases and 23 shellfish leases. Questions centered on lobster bait shortage issue, any potential to artificial bait, and is there any way to monitor by-catch.

Annual Business Meeting – Dave Milan made the motion to accept the minutes of last year’s annual meeting. Steve Walton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

HCPC Accomplishments During FY-09:

Chairman's Report: Rod Franzius noted that the Subdivision Workshop Forums have continued to take place during this fiscal year and that HCPC is conducting the 16th meeting in the series on May 28th. He acknowledged Ray Jones, Tom Martin and Sheri Walsh for the excellent workshops they have organized. Over the past year the workshops have addressed affordable housing, development trends, alternative energy, brownfields and transportation. He stated that the Brownfields Assessment project has county-wide significance and will allow for re-use of contaminated sites. Rod indicated that he has followed the Schoodic Scenic Byway project and HCPC has been quite successful in obtaining grants for this project.

EMDC Report: Steve Walton reported that Mike Aube is the new President of EMDC. He was formerly with EMDC before taking the helm at USDA and DECD and has now returned to EMDC. Steve reported that there are some cash flow and income issues at EMDC due to the economy. EMDC is re-evaluating programs and there have been some personnel changes. The availability of funding is also an issue they are facing.

Agency Report: Ray Jones (Treasurer) was not able to attend the annual meeting tonight but Tom Martin stated that the financial records were in good order. HCPC is seeing much lower earnings in their CD interest income but that is due to the economy and current interest rates. HCPC will come in under budget this fiscal year.

Tom then gave an overview of the accomplishments of the past year and recognized each staff member and officers of the Executive Board for their dedication and hard work over the past year. He felt that Rod Franzius as Chair, Dave Milan as Vice-Chair, and Ray Jones as Treasurer deserved special commendation.

Tom has been active in land use planning. He has been working shoreland zoning ordinance updates for several towns. HCPC is currently working on mapping the shoreland zoning changes for several towns. Tom reported that Winter Harbor and Franklin have received CDBG grants. He has been working on affordable housing and the feasibility of starting a construction materials bank. HCPC received a three year grant to identify possible brownfields sites to clean up the contamination and re-use the site. Tom continues CDBG and land use technical assistance.

Jim Fisher reported that the majority of his work still focuses on transportation planning which include Corridor Management Plans for Downeast Coastal Corridor, Penobscot River Corridor, Acadia Express, and the following Scenic Byways: Acadia, Blackwoods and Schoodic.

Jim is also working with Maine DOT on transportation initiatives for Multimodal Planning for Acadia Gateway Center. Some of the transportation planning is linked with Jim's health planning initiatives. The following projects are transportation projects linked with health planning: Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans include Ellsworth Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Bucksport Transportation Plan, Blue Hill Safe Routes to School, East Coast Greenway, Downeast Sunrise Trail and School Travel Plans. Jim continues to host a monthly radio program, Common Health on WERU 89.9 FM. Jim worked on a project for the Town of Castine this year which included photographing the historic places in town and mapping them using GPS and Google Earth. These are on a website and you can locate the name of

the historic place and see a picture of the property and where it is located in the town. He has recently begun work on the Scenic Viewshed Assessment project, which when it is completed can be accessed much in the same way as the Castine Historic sites. Jim continues to serve as the HCPC resident techie keeping all the computers and the network operational.

FY10 Budget (copies were given to the commissioners): Tom Martin presented the proposed budget for fiscal year July 2009-June 2010 with a brief overview. MOTION: Dale Sprinkle moved to approve the FY10 Budget as presented; motion was seconded by Steve Walton and carried without objection.

FY10 Services Policy (copies were given to the commissioners): Tom presented the Services Policy for FY10. A motion was made by Dave Milan and seconded by Steve Walton and carried unanimously to approve the Services Policy.

Executive Board Members: Nominations were received and the following persons were voted onto the executive board, effective immediately:

District 1: Ray Jones (Gouldsboro) (term 2009-2012)

District 2: Dave Milan (Bucksport) (term 2009-2012)

District 3: Rod Franzius (Hancock) (term 2009-2012)

Dave Milan nominated Rod Franzius to serve as the Chairman of the Executive Board, seconded by Steve Walton. Rod Franzius was elected by those present to serve as the Chairman of the Executive Board.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Prepared by:

Beverly Sanborn, Secretary

Sheri Walsh, Admin. Asst.