



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HCPC & THE CURRENT JOB OPENING

September 27, 2017

HANCOCK COUNTY OVERVIEW

Hancock County is a rural, coastal part of Maine. It has about 54,418 year-round residents and 77the population swells considerably in the summer when about 2 to 3 million visitors flock to Acadia National Park and other scenic attractions. About one-third of the approximately 40,100 dwellings in the region are second homes. The slow pace of life during the off-season, scenic coastline, low crime rate, and cultural amenities have attracted artists, musicians, writers, "back to the landers," and retirees. There are also many residents with families that have been here for generations. Four towns are islands accessible only by boat

Local concerns include high housing costs, the lack of well-paying year-round jobs, preserving the working waterfront, and the aging of the population. Planning and zoning are hotly debated issues in many towns. Summer traffic congestion is another concern.

HANCOCK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) provides planning services to the 38 municipalities in the region. It is a voluntary association of the local governments. It is governed by commissioners appointed from each member town. The executive director oversees the administration of the agency, but spends the majority of his time on various agency projects.

There are only three towns with more than 2,000 population and about half have fewer than 1,200 residents. Only thirteen have paid town managers or administrative assistants. The rest rely primarily on volunteers to run town government. Our web site: www.hpcme.org describes our services.

Our FY-17-18 budget is around \$465,510. We have two full-time planners and an administrative assistant/planning technician. As a small agency, we all pitch in on matters such as trash collection and clearing snow from the entryway. We also hire specialists such as a brownfields consultant. Apart from about \$51,350 in combined county and municipal support, our funding relies entirely on contracts with towns and state and federal agencies. This means that we spend considerable time seeking new funding sources.

Our current projects include coastal resources planning, brownfields, land use ordinance development, healthy communities, and various regional transportation studies. Recent transportation work has involved scenic byways initiatives, analyzing high crash locations, bicycle and pedestrian projects, and interpretive signage. We regularly help towns seek CDBG funding and other sources of grant funds. HCPC is also active in various composting and household hazardous waste management ventures.

Each year we organize several planning board and code enforcement training sessions. These sessions and other outreach efforts keep our clientele informed on the latest trends in planning and land use law. HCPC staff field technical assistance requests from towns on virtually any planning-related matter. Only two towns in the region have full-time planners and most rely on us to provide the services normally provided by a town planner.

THE POSITION

The individual hired for this position will work on a variety of projects. These will focus initially on various transportation projects, public health, and GIS mapping. GIS skills are essential as is familiarity with Microsoft Office products. Graphic design and webpage development experience is preferred.

The long-term security of this position depends in part on the ability of the individual hired to generate additional work through new contracts. This job gives the person hired an opportunity to create work in his/her area of particular interest or expertise.

The position involves outreach to area towns and regular evening meetings. Access to a car is essential. We also have many walk-in and telephone requests for technical assistance. It is important to assure customer satisfaction for all our clients and funding agencies.