



HCPC NEWSLETTER

Hancock County Planning Commission

395 State Street

Ellsworth, ME 04605

phone 207-667-7131; fax 207-667-2099

E-mail: hpc@hpcme.org Internet: www.hpcme.org

Volume XXXII, Issue 3

Fall 2011

HCPC Executive Board

Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Chairman: Roderic Franzius, Hancock

Vice-Chair: Dave Milan, Bucksport

Treasurer: Raymond Jones, Gouldsboro

Secretary: Beverly Sanborn, Cranberry Isles

Directors:

Peter Colman, Blue Hill

Denis Blodgett, Brooksville

C.W. Comer, Sorrento

Charlie Wiggins, Sedgwick

Janet Michaud, County Comm. Representative

Steve Walton, County Comm. Representative

HCPC Staff

Thomas E. Martin, Executive Director

tmartin@hpcme.org

James H. Fisher, Senior Planner

jfisher@hpcme.org

Sheri Walsh, Administrative Assistant

& Planning Technician

swalsh@hpcme.org

In this issue. . . .

Table of Contents	Page
NEWSLETTER CHANGE	1
PLANNING BOARD NEWS	1
LEGISLATIVE NEWS	2
CDBG NEWS	5
SOLID WASTE NEWS	6
TRANSPORTATION NEWS	8
GRANT NEWS.....	9
HEALTH NEWS.....	10
GIS NEWS.....	11

NEWSLETTER CHANGE

Please share this newsletter with other town officials. Only one printed copy is being sent to each town office.

As we shift to an electronic copy of our newsletter, we are still sending one hard copy to each town office. We ask that you please share it with other town officials, especially those that don't have e-mail. If you have not provided us with your primary office e-mail address and the addresses of other municipal officials, please send your list to Sheri Walsh (swalsh@hpcme.org). If you would rather forward the web link to your officials yourself, feel free to do so. (<http://www.hpcme.org/news.html>) Our recommended mailing list includes town managers, town planners, planning and appeals boards, code enforcement officers, LPI's, comprehensive planning committees, and select boards/town/city councils. Also, if you would rather not receive a printed copy, please let Sheri know.

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

By Tom Martin

Shoreland Zoning Standards Relaxed

The Legislature (see related article on new legislation below) amended the shoreland zoning standards this past session. These revisions included allowing cupolas even if the structure

height limit is exceeded and removing a requirement that a court mandate a tree-per-tree replacement for cutting violations. A full revision of the guidelines will take place during the current fiscal year. *At this time, towns that have not adopted the 2006 amendments will not be required to do so. The DEP will not impose state ordinances on towns that do not meet the 2006 standards.* We will keep you posted on further changes.

New Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Simplify Submission Process

The State Planning Office comprehensive plan review criteria (Chapter 208) have been revised. These new criteria should greatly simplify the review process. These amendments became effective on August 6th. Please see <http://www.maine.gov/spo/landuse/docs/compplaning/105c208.pdf> for the text of the amended rule. If you don't have Internet access, contact Tom Martin at the HCPC.

What if we are working on a comp plan?

If you are currently working on a comp plan and have already held your first comp planning committee meeting then you may submit under either the previous or current version of Chapter 208 (until Dec 30, 2011). After Dec 30, 2011, submissions will have to be reviewed under the newly enacted version. If your plan will not be submitted until 2012 please note the vast majority of changes are the removal of required elements so there should be little trouble transitioning to the reduced criteria. As always, the HCPC staff is available to assist in drafting a comprehensive plan. Feel free to contact Tom Martin for more information.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

adapted from The Maine Townsman July 2011

Environment & Natural Resources

LD 159 – An Act To Foster Economic Development by Improving Administration of the Laws Governing Site Location of Development

and Storm Water Management. (Sponsored by Sen. Saviello of Franklin Cty.) **PL 2011, c. 359**

This Act makes a number of changes to the state's Site Location of Development Act (Site Law) and Storm Water management laws as administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Among the changes, this Act: (1) provides that all substantive rules governing storm water management promulgated after January 1, 2010 must be "major substantive" rules, which trigger final legislative review before adoption; (2) provides that most substantive rules related to Site Law promulgated after January 1, 2010, except for standards governing blasting, wind energy development and off-shore wind power projects, must be "major substantive" rules, also triggering final legislative review before adoption; (3) directs DEP to apply the same standards it applies under the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) with respect to vernal pools included within a Site Law application, thereby prohibiting DEP from imposing a buffer strip requirement around a vernal pool unless otherwise required under NRPA for another type of protected resource; (4) directs DEP to adopt rules to allow activities in, on or over high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat to be eligible for the permit-by-rule procedures under the NRPA; and (5) authorizes the Environment and Natural Resources Committee to report out legislation in 2012 relating to high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat.

LD 981 – An Act To Increase Recycling Jobs in Maine and Lower Costs for Maine Businesses Concerning Recycled Electronics. (Sponsored by Rep. Walsh Innes of Yarmouth.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2011, c. 250 (6/08/11)**

This Act makes a number of changes to the laws governing the state's "product stewardship" program which involves establishing drop-off centers for certain electronic equipment and florescent lighting tubes which are then picked up by the product manufacturers for recycling. The drop-off centers are typically located at municipal transfer stations and recycling centers. Among the several amendments to the law, this Act expands the entities that are allowed to drop off the electronic

items at the drop-off centers. Under current law, only “households” were allowed to participate in the municipal collection programs. Under this Act, the allowed participants are expanded to include households, businesses and non-profit organizations with 100 employees or less, and public schools. A limit is established so that no entity can drop off more than seven electronic devices at a time to a municipal drop-off center unless that limit is waived by the municipality. This Act was not identified as a state mandate because providing a municipal drop-off program is not mandatory, although many municipalities will continue to participate in order to provide a convenience for their residents.

LD 1108 – An Act To Modify the Requirement To Replace Trees Cut Down in Violation of Local Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Moulton of York.) **PL 2011, c. 228**

Current law requires a person who cuts down trees or understory vegetation in violation of the shoreland zoning law and local ordinance to replace the trees or vegetation removed with trees or vegetation of a similar size and species, to the extent available and feasible. This Act amends that requirement to provide more flexibility in the remediation standard regarding tree replacement. Specifically, the court must order a remediation plan that requires at a minimum at least 50% of the basal area illegally cut to be replanted with trees of varying sizes and species such that the visual impact from cutting will be remediated and the previous tree canopy will be restored within a reasonable time period. The Act also requires that the reforestation plan submitted to the municipality must include a five-year management plan.

LD 1387 – An Act To Restore Exemptions in the Natural Resources Protection Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples.) **PL 2011, c. 205**

This Act amends the general exemption provided in the state’s Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) when repairing or replacing a road culvert carrying a stream that qualifies for NRPA protection. Under the Act, an exemption from NRPA permitting is provided as long as: (1)

certain erosion control measures are taken; (2) the repaired or replaced culvert does not block fish passage; (3) if a replacement, the culvert is installed to match the natural stream grade to avoid drops and perching; and (4) if a replacement, the culvert is embedded by the greater of one foot or 25% of the culvert’s diameter, as site conditions allow. This Act also clearly separates the road crossing standard in NRPA from the “maintenance and repair” standard regarding structures (i.e., piers, wharves, permanent docks, etc.).

LD 1398 – An Act To Amend the Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. (Sponsored by Rep. Hamper of Oxford.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2011, c. 206 (6/03/11)**

This Act makes dozens of changes to the state’s environmental protection laws. Among the changes pertinent to municipal government, the Act limits the liability of municipalities that acquire oil storage facilities through tax delinquency proceedings. The Act also amends the wellhead protection laws to: (1) extend the siting restrictions on automobile maintenance shops to include non-commercial automobile maintenance and repair facilities, such as public works garages; (2) require anyone replacing a grandfathered underground oil storage tank within a wellhead protection zone to formally notify both the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection and the municipal code enforcement officer of the intent to replace the tank within 30 days after removal; and (3) require the person replacing such a tank to commence construction of the replacement within 2 years after removal of the existing facility.

State & Local Government

LD 322 – An Act To Amend the Informed Growth Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Clark of Easton.) **PL 2011, c. 89**

This Act amends the “Informed Growth Act” (IGA) law to make its application on the municipal level voluntary rather than mandatory. As enacted, the IGA required a certain analysis to be conducted and procedures to be followed before

any “big box” retail development of a certain size could be approved. With this Act, that analysis and those procedures are only required if the municipality chooses to adopt an ordinance that adopts the IGA program “by reference”, as the IGA system is laid out in state law. The Act also makes other changes to the IGA system, including: (1) allowing the municipality to establish the fee to cover the IGA analysis as conducted by a “qualified preparer”, rather than the flat \$40,000 fee in current law; (2) allowing the municipality to pick the “qualified preparer” rather than utilize a list of “qualified preparers” as pre-screened by the State Planning Office; (3) allowing the comprehensive economic impact study to cover any or all of the listed impact factors rather than requiring the impact study to cover each and every factor; and (4) amending the definition of “undue adverse impact” to make it more of an overall rather than factor-specific analysis.

LD 1416 – An Act To Provide Options to Municipalities Concerning the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. (Sponsored by Rep. McKane of Newcastle.) **PL 2011, c. 408**

This Act makes significant changes to the laws governing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) as enacted in 2008 and initially implemented in 2010. Specifically, this Act increases the municipal population threshold triggering the obligatory enforcement of MUBEC from over 2,000 in population to over 4,000 in population. Therefore, MUBEC will now be the standard for local building and energy codes for municipalities with populations exceeding 4,000. The Act also clearly separates the MUBEC code into a uniform building code and a separate uniform energy code by requiring the Technical Building Codes and Standard Board to adopt, amend, and maintain those two elements of the MUBEC code separately. The Act also authorizes but does not require a municipality with a population of 4,000 or less to adopt either the uniform building code or the uniform energy code, or both. If a municipality of 4,000 or under adopts these codes, it assumes the responsibility of enforcement. If a municipality does not adopt the MUBEC codes, those codes do not apply in that

community. (See MUBEC related article on pg. 12)

LD 1460 – An Act Concerning the Recording of Plans for Subdivisions. (Sponsored by Sen. Thomas of Somerset Cty.) **PL 2011, c. 245**

This Act requires a municipality to allow at least 90 days for an approved subdivision plan to be recorded in the registry of deeds.

RECENT COURT CASE EXPANDS DEFINITION OF “NAVIGATION” FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO INTER-TIDAL ZONE.

In Maine, private landownership of waterfront property extends to the low water point of the inter-tidal zone. Per the provisions of a 1641 colonial ordinance, public access to privately held inter-tidal property is restricted to “fishing, fowling, and navigation.” Otherwise, the public does not have the right to cross private inter-tidal property. A recent state supreme court case **McGarvey v. Whittredge (2011 ME 97)** expands the definition of “navigation” to include scuba diving. The following is excerpted from the court’s ruling.

I. BACKGROUND

McGarvey is the owner of inter-tidal land who appealed a Washington County Superior Court judgment in favor of Steven R. Whittredge and Jonathan Bird declaring that Whittredge engaged in a permitted public use of McGarvey’s inter-tidal land when crossing that land to access the ocean for scuba diving.

Bird operates a commercial scuba diving business that takes clients on shore dives in Passamaquoddy Bay. To access the ocean for these dives, Bird and his clients walk with their scuba equipment from Bird’s lot across McGarvey’s inter-tidal land where they enter the water. The dives do not involve the use of a boat, and no one engages in any form of fishing or fowling.

In November 2008, McGarvey filed a declaratory judgment action seeking a determination that Bird has no right to cross McGarvey's inter-tidal land for scuba diving and seeking an injunction prohibiting such use. Bird counterclaimed seeking a judgment declaring that this use is lawful. In January 2010, the court granted a judgment in favor of Bird, declaring that crossing the McGarvey inter-tidal land to access the water for scuba diving is within the public's right to use inter-tidal land for navigation.

II. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Maine law clearly states that the inter-tidal zone belongs to the landowner. Just as solidly established, however, is the public's right to make appropriate use of those lands. See Marshall, 93 Me. at 536, 45 A. at 498. As was clarified in 1845, the upland owner has no "exclusive right" to the portion of the flats on which there is no wharf or pier, and "the public have the same rights to the open space, which they had before, provided they do not interfere with his permanent erections." Deering v. Proprietors of Long Wharf, 25 Me. 51, 65 (1845).

Neither the establishment of private ownership rights through the colonial ordinance, nor the recognition in common law of private ownership rights, has diminished the public trust rights in the inter-tidal lands. See Gerrish v. Proprietors of Union Wharf, 26 Me. 384, 392 (1847). As another court case stated: "(t)he right to use the waters covering flats between high and low water marks, for the purposes of navigation, was not intended to be abridged by the ordinance of 1641."); Lapish, 8 Me. 93. Although Maine has a history of private ownership of inter-tidal lands, that ownership has always been subject to the public's right to cross the wet sand to reach the ocean. The court ruled that scuba diving has qualities of navigation because it is only possible with the use of external apparatus such as breathing gas cylinders, breathing regulators, swim fins, weight belts, and buoyancy compensators. This equipment enables scuba divers to travel and remain submerged in the water for extended periods. Other aspects of scuba

diving further equate it with navigation. Most notably, it involves the use of underwater navigational aids such as watches, depth gauges, and compasses. Therefore, walking across inter-tidal lands to access the ocean in order to scuba dive is within the public's right.

CDBG NEWS

by Tom Martin

Status of the 2011 – 2012 CDBG Program

As we go to press, the details of the upcoming round of Community Development Block Grants are being determined. We will keep you posted through our web site at: <http://www.hcpcme.org/comdev.html> . There is likely to be less money in all grant categories, so the competition will be stiffer than in previous years. Here are some helpful hints in submitting a competitive application:

1. Involve residents early in the application process. The grant scoring process awards points for citizen participation. It is very helpful to organize a citizen's advisory committee and give it an active role in shaping the application. This could involve helping to identify why your proposed project is a priority for the town. Other effective steps include preparing press releases and placing announcements about the proposed project in town newsletters, web sites, and local access cable TV channels. The HCPC staff is available to meet with any committee and help it formulate a citizen outreach strategy.
2. Secure More Than the Minimum Required Matching Funds. Almost all CDBG programs require matching sources of funds. If possible, try to obtain more than the minimum match required, this is especially the case if town funds are to be used. HCPC can help identify matching sources of funds.

3. Gather Documentation of Need: Now is the time to contact engineers or other specialists to provide a detailed description of the conditions that you wish to address. This documentation can be supplemented by informal comments from residents. Sometimes quotes from residents can make your application's statement of need more vivid.
4. If You Were An Unsuccessful Applicant Last Year, Learn How Your Application Could be Strengthened. HCPC staff can arrange meetings with the Maine Office of Community Development staff to review your application and discuss its strengths and weaknesses.

HCPC SEEKS CDBG FUNDING FOR WELL AND SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

The Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) and Washington Hancock Community Agency (WHCA) are seeking another round of Community Development Block Grant funding to continue the county-wide well and septic system replacement program. This program serves income-qualifying residents by providing them with safe drinking water and waste water disposal.

What is Involved in Applying?

Towns would apply as a group for a Community Development Block Grant Housing Assistance Grant. One town would serve as the lead applicant and the others as co-applicants. The HCPC and WHCA would draft the application. If the grant were awarded it would include funds to hire a state-certified grant administrator. *The administrator would handle all the grant paperwork rather than the town.*

Can Towns With High Household Incomes Qualify?

The income limits in this grant apply to individual households rather than the town as a whole. If you have some households in town that meet the income guidelines, your town can apply. These guidelines are on a sliding scale according to family size. For

example, a family of four must earn less than \$48,550. For more information, contact Tom Martin at 667-7131 or tmartin@hpcme.org

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING NEWS

by Tom Martin

2011 Ellsworth Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The collection held on Saturday, August 20th was a huge success. Nearly 140 households participating from the sponsoring towns disposed of 210 units of household hazardous waste consisting of fuels, paints, corrosives, and pesticides. Nearly 4,500 pounds of TV's and computer monitors were collected, as well as 1,500 pounds of keyboards and miscellaneous electronic items, along with 24 pallets of various items, nearly 600 fluorescent light bulbs and 10 pails of various small items.

Residents from non-sponsoring towns paid \$25 per unit out-of pocket to dispose of their items which resulted in 46 units of HHW being collected. HCPC would like to thank the sponsoring towns of Bucksport, Deer Isle, Ellsworth, Gouldsboro, Hancock, Sorrento, Sullivan, Trenton, Winter Harbor and Hancock County Unorganized Territories and their volunteers for all their assistance in making this collection a success.

Plastics: The Expanding Market

A June 2011 Plastics Recycling Primer report prepared for the State Planning Office (see: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/docs/Plastics/PlasticsRecyclingPrimer.pdf>) presents an overview of plastics recycling. According to a 2009 study by the US EPA, only 7.1 percent of plastics are recovered from the solid waste stream. This is the second lowest recovery rate (*food and related organics are the lowest, see article below on composting*) of any component of the solid waste stream.

While plastics are generally divided into categories 1-7, most transfer stations only accept number 1 and 2. Tubs and lids are usually not accepted. However, there are emerging markets for other types of plastic. These include tubs and lids, deli containers, 5-gallon buckets and plastic lawn furniture. These products have to meet certain bale specifications and volume levels to make recycling cost-effective. For more information, contact Tom Martin.

Compost Update: New Opportunities Emerge

EPA statistics estimate that only 2.5 percent of food scraps and related organic material are recovered from the municipal waste stream. One potential opportunity to increase the recovery rate is restaurant to farm composting. This is in effect “closing the loop.” Many local restaurants, thanks in part to an earlier HCPC venture, purchase produce from area farms. These farms have a high demand for compost to use as a soil amendment. The farm to restaurant loop can run in both directions.

While EPA statistics indicate that food scraps account for about 14 percent of the municipal waste stream, they account for an estimated 60 – 70 percent of restaurant waste. The average restaurant meal generates about 0.75 pounds of pre-consumer material (such as vegetable scrapings) and 0.75 pounds of post-consumer material. This means that a restaurant that serves 100 meals a day can produce as much as 150 pounds of food scraps. Since there are an estimated 250 food serving establishments in Hancock County (including restaurants and grocery stores), there is great potential for composting.

HCPC is working to initiate a restaurant to farm composting venture. For more information on this program, see: <http://www.hcpcme.org/environment.html> . The compost section of this link (scroll down the page) has information on steps that restaurants and other food serving establishments can take to implement

a composting program. It also addresses odor control and the DEP rules governing composting and presents case studies. Contact Tom Martin for more information.

Recycling Potential for Hotels and Campgrounds

Across Hancock County, municipal solid waste committees are working to educate households on how to increase recycling. It is more challenging to promote waste reduction and recycling in hotels, campgrounds, and other transient accommodations. The Maine DEP, through its Green Lodging Certification Program, offers technical assistance. See: http://www.maine.gov/dep/innovation/greencert/lo_dging.htm . Here are some sample hints:

1. use e-mail rather than paper whenever possible for staff communication;
2. install recycle bins in common areas and guest rooms;
3. use refillable dispensers for soap, shampoo and lotions in guest bathrooms rather than individual, throwaway containers;
4. in food serving areas, have reusable silverware and dishes;
5. if reusable dishes are not feasible, avoid Styrofoam. Use cardboard carry-out containers and paper cups rather than plastic; and
6. have informational material in guest rooms about the establishment’s green certification.

For additional information, see: <http://www.hcpcme.org/environment.html> and scroll down to “Hotel and Transient Accommodation Waste Reduction and Recycling.”

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

by Jim Fisher

Back to Safe Routes to School

Schools have opened and kids are enjoying the end of summer, with early fall weather on the way. This is a great time for encouraging kids to walk to school. Mounting evidence shows that walking before school promotes health and academic performance. Walking provides kids with a chance to socialize, work off breakfast and connect with the outside world before being asked to sit still during classes.

HCPC is the regional coordinator for Safe Routes to Schools in eastern Maine. We have limited funding to assist schools and towns to work together.

Here are some ways we can help (excerpts from www.bikemaine.org):

- Walk and Bike to School Events - check out the Bike Coalition of Maine's [Walk and Bike to School Events Description and Checklist](#). And make sure to plan events for October's International Walk and Bike to School Day ([Oct. 5th](#)) and Month, 2011. [Please register your event\(s\) with the Maine SRTS program](#) to enter to win fun safety gear and also to order free event materials.
- Organize [Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education](#) presentations or P.E./Health Curriculum, a Bike Safety Skills Rodeo, and/or After School Bike Club.
- Get More Students Walking and Biking by addressing barriers with a [School Travel Plan](#) – including doing Walkability and Bikeability audits and a [Parent Survey](#).

Contact us for staff support and to learn more!



MAINE
SCENIC BYWAYS

Score Two for the Byways

Grant proposals were submitted this spring for visitor way-finding and interpretive signage on the Schoodic and Acadia Scenic Byways.

Close on the heels of a belated 2010 grant award for the Acadia All American Road, another award has been granted for the Acadia Byway, this one to promote visitor information and interpretation at intermodal sites including the Hancock County Bar Harbor Airport in Trenton and the passenger landing area next to Agamont Park in Bar Harbor. Additional information about this grant is available at www.acadiabyway.org.

The Schoodic National Scenic Byway was also awarded a grant to complete interpretive signage proposed for several sites along the byway including Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor and Sullivan. Additional information about this grant is available at www.schoodicbyway.info.

HCPC staff assisted the respective committees to prepare these proposals. Jim Fisher recently delivered two presentations about byway planning at the National Scenic Byways Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The presentations are available online.

Ellsworth Trail Nears Completion

The one-mile trail connecting Ellsworth Falls and Spring Street is nearing completion. This new facility will be unique in Hancock County, providing a one mile off-road, paved trail for walking and bicycling. The Ellsworth Trail will allow area residents to walk safely to destinations including Ellsworth Falls, Ellsworth High School, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and Main Street businesses. An inaugural ribbon cutting will be planned soon and a date will be posted to our website. As this project reaches completion we will focus on the final two miles connecting the Ellsworth Trail and the Down East Sunrise Trail.



GRANT NEWS

by Tom Martin

2011 Project Canopy Assistance Grants

Project Canopy Assistance Grants are available to state, county, and municipal governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations for developing and implementing community forestry projects and programs. Project Canopy, a cooperative partnership between the Department of Conservation's Maine Forest Service and GrowSmart Maine, anticipates that \$200,000 will be available to support community forestry projects in the following categories:

Planning and Education

\$10,000 maximum award

Projects support sustainable community forestry management, and efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of trees and forests.

Planting and Maintenance

\$8,000 maximum award

Projects increase the health and livability of communities through sound tree planting and maintenance.

To be eligible to apply for 2011 Project Canopy Assistance grants, all applicants must attend a grant workshop prior to submitting an application (excluding previous workshop attendees). Grant workshops will be scheduled for September 2011, will be held in various locations throughout the state, and will cover topics including grant writing, project

development, sustainable community forestry management, and grant administration.

Grant applications will be due to the Maine Forest Service at 5:00 pm on Monday October 17, 2011. All grants require a 50% match from the grant recipient in cash or in-kind services.

Project Canopy is funded by the USDA Forest Service Community Forestry Assistance Program. The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program was authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (PL95-313) and revised by the 1990 Farm Bill (PL101-624) to promote natural resource management in populated areas and improve quality of life.

For complete grant application and workshop information, please visit the Project Canopy website at <http://projectcanopy.maine.gov>. You can also learn more about the Project Canopy assistance program by contacting Jan Ames Santerre by phone at 207-287-4987 or by email at jan.santerre@maine.gov.

Trees for Free!

Project Canopy has always connected communities with trees. Since the beginning of the program in 1990, it has offered grants to communities for tree plantings. Since then, it has distributed millions of dollars in grant money to plant trees on streets, in parks, and in front yards throughout Maine.

This year, through the generosity of Dutton's Nursery, in Morrill, Maine, it is offering a different type of tree planting opportunity. Dutton's will close operations at the end of the season this year. Rather than wholesaling remaining stock, it has decided to give back to the communities that have supported their business over the years, by donating trees to Project Canopy. Cities, towns, schools, and non-profit organizations will be eligible to receive free trees for community planting.

Over one thousand trees are available, of over 75 species and varieties. Sizes range from 5 gallon shrubs to trees anywhere from 1 to 5" caliper. Two distribution dates in September and October, 2011

will be set aside to pick up trees at Dutton's Nursery. Tree recipients will be responsible for picking up trees, while Dutton's and Maine Forest Service staff will help load orders. All recipients must first submit an application/registration with Project Canopy, in order to track donations as well as to minimize problems on the distribution dates. For those smaller communities and organization that may not have the ability to transport the trees, there may be opportunities to consolidate transportation with larger service centers and surrounding Tree City USA communities. To receive the inventory of trees available, and to register, please contact Jan Ames Santerre at jan.santerre@maine.gov, or 287-4987.

Coastal Zone Adaptation Grants

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) seek proposals from coastal municipalities in New England to advance their efforts to adapt land use, infrastructure, policies, and programs to changing environmental conditions. GOMC and NROC strongly encourage applicants to submit a Letter Of Intent before submitting a full proposal. **Letters of Intent are due by 5:00 p.m. on September 29, 2011. Full proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2011.** The attached RFP has been distributed electronically by the GOMC, NROC, StormSmart Coasts Network, and state coastal management programs as well as other groups. It can be found at: www.stormsmart.org/groups/new-england.

GOMC and NROC seek a representative range of technical capacities and coastal hazards challenges that exist in cities and towns across New England's coastal zone. At least one pilot project will be selected from each of the five coastal New England states. The selected communities will be awarded up to \$30,000 each over 18 months and serve as models for other coastal communities looking to adapt to changing conditions.

Please contact Adrienne Harrison (adrienne.harrison@noaa.gov) with questions about this RFP. Responses will be recorded and

posted to the StormSmart Coasts Network - New England Group at: www.stormsmart.org/groups/new-england. Also Tom Martin at the HCPC is available to help.

Spring 2012 Safe Routes to School Mini-grants

The National Center for Safe Routes to School is now accepting applications for 25 mini-grants of \$1,000 each. These mini-grants support the goal of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs, which is to enable and encourage children to safely walk and bicycle to school. (See related article under Transportation News section of the newsletter).

Mini-grants fund activities that range from the nuts and bolts that help start or sustain a program to new ideas that explore the range of benefits of safe walking and bicycling. Selected mini-grant proposals will fit a school's identified needs and interests around safe walking and bicycling. The mini-grant activities should occur between January 1, 2012, and the end of the Spring 2012 semester.

Applications are due **Wednesday, October 19, 2011**.

For more information about the National Center's mini-grant program, visit www.saferoutesinfo.org/funding-portal/mini-grants or contact Jim Fisher at the HCPC.

HEALTH NEWS

Healthy Acadia Goes County-Wide

A recent initiative to streamline the Healthy Maine Partnerships has resulted in a further consolidation of programs in Hancock County. A five-year contract has been awarded to Healthy Acadia to serve all of Hancock County.



HCPC has worked over the past decade with all of the Healthy Maine Partnerships and Healthy Community Coalitions. We will continue our work with Healthy Acadia with an emphasis on outreach to all of the towns in Hancock County with information and resources to promote initiatives such as reducing tobacco and alcohol use by minors, increasing opportunities to walk and bicycle and providing towns with sample ordinances that promote health and well being. We will be updating our website as well as www.healthyacadia.org to reflect the new mission of our organizations and provide towns with quick access to information and resources.

GIS NEWS

by Jim Fisher

A New Way to Map 2003 – 2007 Development In Maine



Sample Map Showing Changes in Impervious Surface at the Route 1 Route 3 triangle in Ellsworth

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has interpreted new impervious and impervious change data based on satellite imagery. These data provide 1-meter resolution imperviousness data for most organized towns based on 2003 and 2007 aerial photos, and also indicating the change in impervious during that period (entirely an additive process for the four-year period). The data are available on the website of the Maine Office of GIS for easy mapping using

Google Earth at www.maine.gov/megis/catalog. Impervious surfaces do not absorb rainwater and can create challenges for stormwater runoff. A side benefit is that you can see in rough terms where new roads, buildings and parking lots have been constructed between 2003 and 2007. HCPC has incorporated the data in our GIS system and can help you to visualize where development occurred and how that might impact stormwater.

SAVE THE DATES!

MDI Household Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste Collection

Saturday, September 24th

For more information, contact Acadia Disposal District at 276-5743

FREE PESTICIDE DISPOSAL

Maine homeowners have an opportunity to safely dispose of banned pesticides free of charge. Pre registration by September 30th is required. Contact Maine Board of Pesticides Control at 287-2731 for more information.

Striking a Balance in Hancock County Workshop Series

November 17, 2011

Well and Septic Permitting: What Every Planning Board Should Know

Topics of discussion:

Wells and Septic Systems: What Is the Role of the Planning Board and Other Local Permitting Authorities?

Site Evaluation: What Should Planning Boards, CEO's and LPI's Know?

Well and septic system permitting: An Overview of the State Process.

Did you know HCPC now has a Facebook Page?



Click on the link below to visit our page. "Like" our page and receive updates on upcoming events and announcements on your Facebook News Feed.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Hancock-County-Planning-Commission/348791130697>

Hancock County Planning Commission is a partner with local and county government to: protect our heritage and resources, plan for the future and promote a sound economy for the people of Hancock County.

Fall 2011 Newsletter



395 State Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Change Service Requested