



# HCPC NEWSLETTER

Hancock County Planning Commission

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Volume XXXIV, Issue 1

Spring 2013

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## PLANNING BOARD NEWS

*by Tom Martin*

### **WATER & WASTE WATER INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES**

HCPC is available to help towns with water supply and wastewater disposal issues. If your community has any questions regarding failing septic systems, inadequate wells, or how to protect water supplies, contact Tom Martin.

### Alternative Small-Scale Wastewater Disposal and Water Supply Systems

Many Hancock County towns have concentrations of homes with poorly performing septic systems. Others are trying to attract new residential development to an area with small lots but are unsure how to comply with state plumbing codes. The cost of installing a standard centralized wastewater collection and treatment plant is usually prohibitive.

There are, however, other options. These are summarized in a recent report prepared under the leadership of the Washington County Council of Governments. For details, see: <http://www.gro-wa.org/wastewater-resource-manual> . This on-line resource summarizes recent changes in wastewater treatment technology and cites case studies. Long-held assumptions about certain parcels of land not being suitable for development may be no longer valid. It presents information on innovative treatment techniques and addresses enforcement options. There are also links to comprehensive planning and zoning resources. This report should

be useful to both planning boards and developers. For more information, contact Tom Martin.

### **Public Water Systems: Some Informational Resources**

The term “public water system” confuses many town officials. There are about 200 public water systems in the Hancock County Planning Commission service area. Only a small portion of these are owned by towns or water districts. Per the Maine Drinking Program definitions, a "public water system" means “any publicly or privately owned system of pipes or other constructed conveyances ... through which water is obtained for or sold, furnished or distributed to the public for human consumption, if such a system has at least 15 service connections, regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 day out of the year or bottles water for sale.

There are three types of systems:

1. **Community Water System:** A public water system which serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.
2. **Non-Community Water System:** A public water system that is not a community water system. There are two types of Non-Community Water Systems. These are:
  - a. **Non-Transient, Non-Community Water Systems:** A Non-Community water system that serves at least 25 of the same persons for 6 months or more per year and may include, but is not limited to, a school, factory, industrial park or office building, and
  - b. **Transient Non-Community Water Systems:** A Non-Community water system that serves at least 25 persons, but not necessarily the same persons, for at least 60 days per year and may include, but is not limited to, a highway rest stop, seasonal restaurant, seasonal motel, golf course, park or campground. A bottled water company is a transient, non-community water system.

For more information on public water systems in your community, see:

- the number there are in town: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/water/sources.htm>
- a Google service for locating wells and protection areas at: [http://www.maine.gov/dep/gis/datamaps/DWP\\_Wells/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/dep/gis/datamaps/DWP_Wells/index.html)
- For homeowner and business level recommendations on reducing the risk of groundwater contamination, see: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/water/dwp-services/swp/sourcewaterprotection.htm>
- For unsafe drinking water conditions: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/water/boilwaterorders.htm>

Feel free to contact Tom Martin with any questions on water quality or wastewater treatment. General information can be found at: <http://www.hcpcme.org/environment.html>

## **CDBG NEWS**

*by Tom Martin*

HCPC is available to help towns with all aspects of the CDBG program. If you are thinking of seeking funds in the upcoming round, feel free to contact Tom Martin. He can provide an overview of the different grant programs and explain what is needed to assemble a competitive application. Specific services include the following:

- Assistance in meeting income guidelines such as explaining income thresholds, how to conduct an income survey, and determining the right survey sample size;

- Developing citizen participation strategies, attending meetings to explain the program, assistance with public hearing requirements and providing hints on how to organize a citizen's advisory committee;
- Identifying matching sources of funds;
- Informing towns of the latest program requirements; and
- Related assistance.

For more information see:  
<http://www.hcpcme.org/comdev.html>

## **GRANT NEWS**

*by Tom Martin*

### **HCPC RECEIVES WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING GRANT**

The primary focus of this grant is to provide training sessions to Code Enforcement Officers (CEO's) and Local Plumbing Inspectors (LPI's) on water and waste water issues. A secondary focus is to help towns identify concentrations of poorly functioning wells and septic systems. This will allow towns to direct technical assistance (such as new wells) to areas with the most need.

HCPC will be organizing a workshop on identification of threats to drinking water including both individual wells and small public water systems. The date of this workshop has yet to be determined. We plan to coordinate the timing with other pending workshops on coastal zone issues and the farmland registration act. Contact Tom Martin for details.

HCPC staff is available to meet with individual planning boards, CEO's and LPI's to discuss specific water quality problems and identify possible solutions. These could include, but are not limited to, seeking grant money for system replacement, development of alternative systems and the drafting of land use regulations that promote land

development practices that minimize threats to water quality. Staff will also work with the Maine Drinking Water Program to address problems faced by public water systems with a high degree of risk factors.

## **SOLID WASTE AND WATER QUALITY NEWS**

*By Tom Martin*

### **GREATER ELLSWORTH AREA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2013**

Hancock County Planning Commission has once again received grant funding to staff household hazardous waste (HHW) collection. HHW includes oil-based paints, pesticides, acids (battery, muriatic, etc.), adhesives/solvents, antifreeze (used), automobile fluids, chemicals (pool, photo, etc.), and oven and drain cleaners. The collection will also accept Universal Waste such as computers, monitors, televisions, and fluorescent bulbs and ballasts. A full list of accepted and not accepted items will be available from the HCPC.

We will be contacting towns to solicit interest in participating and explain how the process works. Each town will need to provide a volunteer. Pre-registration at the participating municipal office will be required of all residents planning to dispose of items. For more information contact Sheri Walsh at [swalsh@hcpcme.org](mailto:swalsh@hcpcme.org) or call 667-7131.

### **HCPC AVAILABLE TO HELP TOWNS DEVELOP RECYCLING STRATEGIES, ASSIST IN CDD MANAGEMENT AND LARGE-SCALE COMPOSTING**

HCPC staff would be happy to meet with any solid waste or recycling committee to discuss solid waste management. Our specific services include, but are not limited to:

- Assist with transfer station designs and improvements that increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste that is hauled to an incinerator or disposed of in a landfill.
- Help develop sound Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) management strategies.
- Design and produce brochures and posters for community waste management and/or recycling programs.
- Working with hotels and owners of other transient accommodations in developing recycling and other waste diversion programs.
- Arrange backyard composting workshops.
- Organize presentations on household hazardous waste management, composting, recycling, and pay-as-you-throw programs.
- Assist major generators of shellfish waste (or other organics) in diverting this material from disposal through composting or by linking producers with local compost operations or farmers.
- Prepare or amend transfer station operations manuals, job descriptions, annual recycling reports, local solid waste and recycling ordinances, and policies.

## **TRANSPORTATION NEWS**

*by Jim Fisher*

### **MaineDOT 2013-2014-2014 Work Plan Published**

The Maine Department of Transportation has posted a three year work plan to their website [www.maine.gov/mdot](http://www.maine.gov/mdot). The work plan is a long and detailed list of projects that MaineDOT plans to build over the next three years. For each project there is an ID Number, Municipality, Scope of Work, Highway Corridor Priority Ranking, Name of Road or project, Description and Estimated Funding.

These projects range in scope from maintenance paving to bridge replacement. We encourage town governments to review projects that will affect them and engage in local planning about opportunities, such as utility work, that will be more affordable or possibly mandatory in coordination with these transportation construction projects.

Note that items that are shaded blue in the list are planned for this year. These projects are funded and very likely to move ahead on schedule. The non-shaded projects are intended for 2014 and 2015. These projects are not necessarily funded and will depend on good coordination and support from local governments. To this end, HCPC will be notifying towns of their projects and offering to assist in planning around these efforts. You will find the Work Plan for Hancock County on our website at [www.hcpcme.org/transport.html](http://www.hcpcme.org/transport.html).

On March 13 the Maine Department of Transportation convened a planning meeting for reconstruction of over 4 miles of Route 3 in Bar Harbor. This meeting recognized the passing of the torch from a very successful planning effort, called "Context Sensitive Solutions" that engaged local representatives in defining what the corridor should look like in the future.

This project is anticipated to cost well over \$10 million to complete. The improved highway will include a better travel surface, improved drainage, paved shoulders, sidewalks, grassy esplanades and other adaptations to improve safety and encourage walking and biking. Details of the conceptual design are available at <http://www.hcpcme.org/barharbor/css>. The CSS process will save endless hours of argument and redesign because planning included strong local participation from the start. HCPC assisted the MaineDOT in collaboration with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Please contact Jim Fisher at HCPC if your community would like to work on transportation corridor design. Having a plan is not a guarantee of funding, but can make a big difference when opportunities arise.



## **HEALTH NEWS**

by Jim Fisher

### **Community Transformation Grant**

HCPC has joined forces with Healthy Acadia, Washington County One Community and Washington County Council of Governments to implement a Community Transformation Grant program funded by the Centers for Disease Control. CDC supports and enables awardees to design and implement community-level programs that prevent chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. Healthy Acadia proposes to reduce weight, improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and improve emotional well-being among residents. This project will focus on promoting healthy eating and physical activity, improving access to quality preventive health services, and promoting social and emotional wellness.

HCPC will be working on a number of initiatives in this two-year program. Our particular focus will be assisting schools and towns to foster a more active living environment. This is a continuation of our ongoing programs to help communities plan walking and bicycling infrastructure, improve transportation safety and encourage indoor and outdoor community parks, playgrounds, recreation centers and programs. While we work to build sidewalks, trails, parks and playgrounds, we also want to work with towns to encourage smart growth, or future development that gives residents more options for transportation, community engagement, and long-term environmental sustainability. Data continue to pile up showing that well-designed villages hold their value while low density sprawl does not. Tight fiscal constraints will continue to challenge us to build in ways that reduce our need for costly infrastructure and fossil fuels.

### **Grant Opportunities**

Attractive incentives for participation are coming soon. Healthy Acadia and Washington County One Community will be offering opportunities to compete for project funding. In the first round, planned for this spring, three requests for proposals will go out to the schools. These will cover projects and programs for coordinated school health, promoting nutrition and physical activity. Another grant round is anticipated in the fall. Contact Jim Fisher at HCPC for more information.

### **RALA: Rural Active Living Assessment**

One element of the HCPC partnership with Healthy Acadia will be to carry out Active Living Assessments. RALA is a three phase assessment that includes:

- a town-wide inventory of assets, ranging from sidewalks to skating rinks
- a community program and policy assessment about towns and school policies for active living
- a segment analysis that looks at specific corridors for infrastructure such as sidewalks, crosswalks, barriers, and the social fabric that makes walking attractive including retail outlets, schools and libraries located within walking or biking distance.

Our plan is to couple this assessment process with creation of a county-wide active living inventory and mapping project. When complete, we will have an on-line map that shows residents and visitors many of our well known and less-known places to walk, bicycle, swim, play basketball or baseball. While much of the data is already at hand, we will be contacting a number of priority communities for their input in coming months. Your input will make a difference.

### **Active Communities Conference 2013**

This conference has been going for several years and is a great place for town leaders, planners, health professionals, exercise advocates and others

to learn new techniques for advocacy, planning, evaluation, fund raising and other essential elements of an active community campaign. The keynote speaker will be Miriam Nelson, PhD is professor of Nutrition at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and founder and director of the John Hancock Research Center on Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Obesity Prevention at Tufts University. Break-out sessions will include everything from conducting walking audits to funding trails projects. For more information and registration, look for the announcement at [www.hpcme.org](http://www.hpcme.org) or contact Jim Fisher as HCPC. We will be arranging a carpool for people that want a ride.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

April 25, 2013

Striking a Balance Workshop # 26  
Farmland Registration, Farmland and Tree Growth  
Property Tax Programs, The Future of Agriculture  
in Maine

May 28, 2013

HCPC Annual Meeting  
Ellsworth Library

June 27, 2013

Striking a Balance Workshop # 27  
The Status of Public Access in Maine, Non-  
Regulatory Approaches, Enacting Effective Harbor  
and Public Access Ordinances: What Are the Steps?



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**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.**

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