



WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY GUIDED PLANNING and
ZONING PROCESS

Public Outreach Meeting Minutes
MARION / CATHANCE
6-8 PM July 28, 2016



Dennysville – Edmunds ATV & Snowmobile Club, Dennysville

Attendees:

<p><i>Community Participants</i> (from sign-in sheet; apologies for misspellings) Virginia Wilde* Jim Martini* Travis Howard* Carlo Caletti Harry and Peg Dowling Diane Griffith*</p> <p>* also serving on UT Planning Committee</p>	<p><i>Convenors/Facilitators</i> Judy East, Washington County Council of Governments Sarah Strickland, Strategic Wisdom Partners Dr. Tora Johnson, University of Maine at Machias GIS Service Center and Laboratory</p>
	<p><i>Land Use Planning Commission Staff</i> Stacie Beyer, Land Use Planning Commission – Chief Planner, Bangor Karen Bolstridge, Land Use Planning Commission – Environmental Specialist, Bangor</p>
	<p><i>UT Planning Committee Members</i> John & Marie Dudley, Town of Alexander Susan Hatton, Sunrise County Economic Council John Hough, Trescott resident</p>

Meeting Purpose – from Powerpoint Presentation posted on Community Outreach website page:
<http://www.wccog.net/community-outreach.htm>

Planning Committee/LUPC:

- Understand each community's vision for future development.

Community Participants:

- Understand what exists & the types of zoning tools available
- To be heard & to participate in a meaningful way

Introductions – who is in the room from the community?

All Attendees:	Community Participation:
Property owners in Marion: 3 Property owners in Cathance: 4 Full time residents in both: 2 Seasonal residents in Cathance: 1 Business owners in Marion: 1 UT Planning Committee: 7 LUPC Staff: 2	Lake Association: 3

Judy provided a description of the overall project to conduct Community Guided Planning & Zoning in the Washington County Unorganized Territories and Plantations including where we are in the overall process and how to get more information on the web site. See the Powerpoint presentation on the Community Outreach Page (link above).

After setting up the Vision Questions Judy continued with a presentation of what the current zones are in both Marion and Cathance using the maps and posters on the wall, the presentation, and the handouts. All handouts are also posted on the Community Outreach Page (link above).

We then continued with the vision conversation.

Community Vision Conversation – Flip Chart Notes

What do you like about your community?

Marion	Cathance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not close to neighbors • People leave everybody along • You can see the stars at night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peaceful and quiet • No traffic • The lake • Fishing • Swimming • ATV trails • You can see the stars at night • A big contrast from the city • GPS does not work

What should remain the same for the benefit of future generations?

Marion	Cathance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cell towers conflicting with dark skies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything • Used to like low taxes • No Internet • No cell phones • No traffic lights or stop signs

What should change for the benefit of future generations?

Marion	Cathance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate changes to addresses in 9-11 systems to goggle map search engines (include better directions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing • Better access in GPS locator technology • Improved 9-11 addressing for safety

What are the most important natural resources?

Marion	Cathance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees – firewood, shade, habitat, wind breaks

What types of businesses would you like to see in your community?

Marion	Cathance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't see anything that would be sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bait shop • A little store would be nice – but not enough people to support business eg. Cathance Variety could not survive all the licenses and rules

The following question was not asked given the responses above

When is there good reason to locate new development near the important natural resources you identified?

Instead Sarah asked: **What problems have you had with the existing regulations?**

Marion	Cathance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We received no notice when a road near us was changed to Downeast Sunrise Trail • ATVs are noisy and go too fast • DEST is just like a road now with big machines the size of a jeep • Need speed limit signs • Too late to change things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is easier that it was before to expand • Still takes a long time • Rules change a lot over time – can't keep up with them • Lake Association has no restrictions
<p>Question then did arise - <i>When is there good reason to locate new development near the important natural resources you identified?</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2 permitted subdivision developments; by the time they got their permits the market had fallen out and many lots are not selling • Not much future development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe some recreational development but no commercial

We then did a “walk- around” to view the maps on the wall.

Given the near complete lack of interest, enthusiasm and belief in the viability of future development among this very small group - We did not ask those present to contemplate the answers to the “Where is Your Balance Point” matrix or to place dots on the map in answer to the next 3 vision questions:

What locations do you think would be best for more:

- Commercial development? (pink dot)
- Residential development? (orange dot)
- Recreational development? (green dot)

NOTE – for future meetings: With more people in attendance we will ask participants to place a star on a matrix that asked where the balance point was in their response to the following 2 questions:

- Along the bottom – indicate the level of importance you place (from very low to very high) on the Importance of Protecting Natural Resources Beyond Required Minimums
- Along the vertical - indicate the level of importance you place (from very low to very high) on the Importance of Increasing the Ability to Develop Land to Build Economic Opportunity

This group was small and did not want more development or believe any would be sustainable.

Final thoughts:

- Participants were asked if they felt that we/the met the original purposes of the meeting (to understand existing zoning and future zoning tools; and to be heard in a meaningful way) and they indicated that they did

Tora Johnson then provided a demonstration of the 4 GIS suitability analysis models that will be used to evaluate the suitability of any development that is proposed in any of the UTs or Plantations. These included:

- Development Suitability Analysis
- Resource Dependent industries suitability analysis
- Recreation suitability analysis
- Conservation suitability analysis

Each were viewed using Marion and Cathance as the base map.

NOTE – we will be recording a YouTube video of the presentation on how the 4 GIS mapping analyses operate, the assumptions behind the models, the data used in each model, and how the outputs will be used by the Planning Committee to make recommendations on where any development should take place as a result of the community visioning input.

Respectfully Submitted
Judy East