

Conservation Commission & Plan Review

MUNICIPAL BOARD EMPOWERMENT SERIES WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 29, 2019

MAINE AUDUBON, FALMOUTH



Agenda

1. Plan review 101
2. Role of conservation commissions in the review process
3. Reading plans
 - a. Site Plans
 - b. Subdivisions
4. Key conservation considerations
5. Hands-on exercise
6. Interacting with the Planning Board
7. Discussion / Q&A

Plan Review 101

- Site Plan & Subdivision Review

- Ensure development occurs in a manner consistent with community goals, policies, and strategies
- Protect health, safety, and welfare of citizens
- Promote development of a sound and stable community
- Protect the environment

Role of Conservation Commission in Plan Review Process

- Role varies from community to community
 - Formal vs. Informal
- Identify points in the process for input
 - Review local ordinances for mention of conservation commission and/or opportunities for input from municipal commissions
- Build relationship with Planning Department
 - Request applications be forwarded to Conservation Commission for review and comment
- Not all recommendations will be accepted by the Planning Board

Role of Conservation Commission in Plan Review Process: Local Land Use Ordinances

•Cape Elizabeth

- Conservation Committee **advises** the Planning Board in the granting of Resource Protection Permits
 - Prior to considering the application, the Planning Board shall refer it to the Conservation Commission for its review and recommendation.
 - Conservation Commission may request that the applicant attend a meeting of the Commission to discuss the application.
- Role as steward of Town open space is formalized in the Conservation Ordinance
 - Following report of a potential encroachment, the potential encroachment shall be inspected by the Town and, if deemed necessary, a professional surveyor may be retained to confirm the property boundary and prepare a sketch showing the extent of the encroachment. When applicable, the deed for the open space shall be reviewed for restrictions. If the Conservation Commission identifies a possible encroachment, it may gather information as described above and report its findings to the Town Manager.

Role of Conservation Commission in Plan Review Process: Local Land Use Ordinances

- **Eliot**

- Consultation **required** to approve language of dedication and allowed uses if undeveloped land is dedicated to the town for open space developments

- **Kennebunkport**

- **Shall** be provided with copies of appeals of CEO's interpretation to allow opportunity to provide information, comments, and recommendations to BOA

- **Kittery**

- Appointment, purpose, duties, powers, & membership established in ordinances
- **Must** be invited to review and offer recommendations from an environmental protection perspective during preliminary plan review
- **Must** be notified of public hearing for plan acceptance and right-of-way application
- **May** request information from CC for proposed wetlands alterations and the PB will consider the advisory opinion

- **York**

- Feedback **shall** be solicited from CC on the site design during Conceptual Design Review for cluster subdivisions
- **May** be involved in mandatory inspection program of open space for cluster subdivisions
- Notification **required** if variance requested from BOA for shoreland zone

**LEGEND:**

- Existing Property Line
- Existing Overhead Powerline
- Existing Gas Line
- Existing Fence Line
- Existing Paved Road
- Existing Gravel Road
- Existing Wetland
- Existing Stream
- Existing Wetland Setback
- Existing Index Contour Line
- Existing Interval Contour Line
- Proposed Index Contour Line
- Proposed Interval Contour Line
- Proposed Solar Array
- Proposed Electrical Equipment
- Proposed Access Road
- Module Setback Line
- Proposed Security Fence
- Proposed Laydown Yard
- Proposed Drainage Ditch
- Proposed Drainage Basin
- Proposed Drainage Boundary Line
- Drainage Direction

Westwood

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Lewiston, ME 04240-1120
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Westwood Professional Services, Inc.



12-20-2017

Design: SB
Check: MPC
Drawn: SB
Recent Drawing Number:
Revision: 1 Date: 12-20-2017

Prepared for:
NEXTERA ENERGY
RESOURCES

BASIN	BOTTOM ELEV.	OUTLET ELEV.	BASIN "DEAD" STORAGE (ft)	CULVERT OUTLET ELEV.	TOP OF BANK ELEVATION (feet above sea level)	ELEV. (ft)
1	126.9	132.1	57,600	131	138.8	21.75
2	133.2	136.9	8,720	133.5	138.7	8.75
3	141.35	144.25	17,620	142	148.15	33.90
4	146.4	149.4	8,600	146	152.8	2.25

Kennebunk Solar Project
York County, ME

Drainage Plan

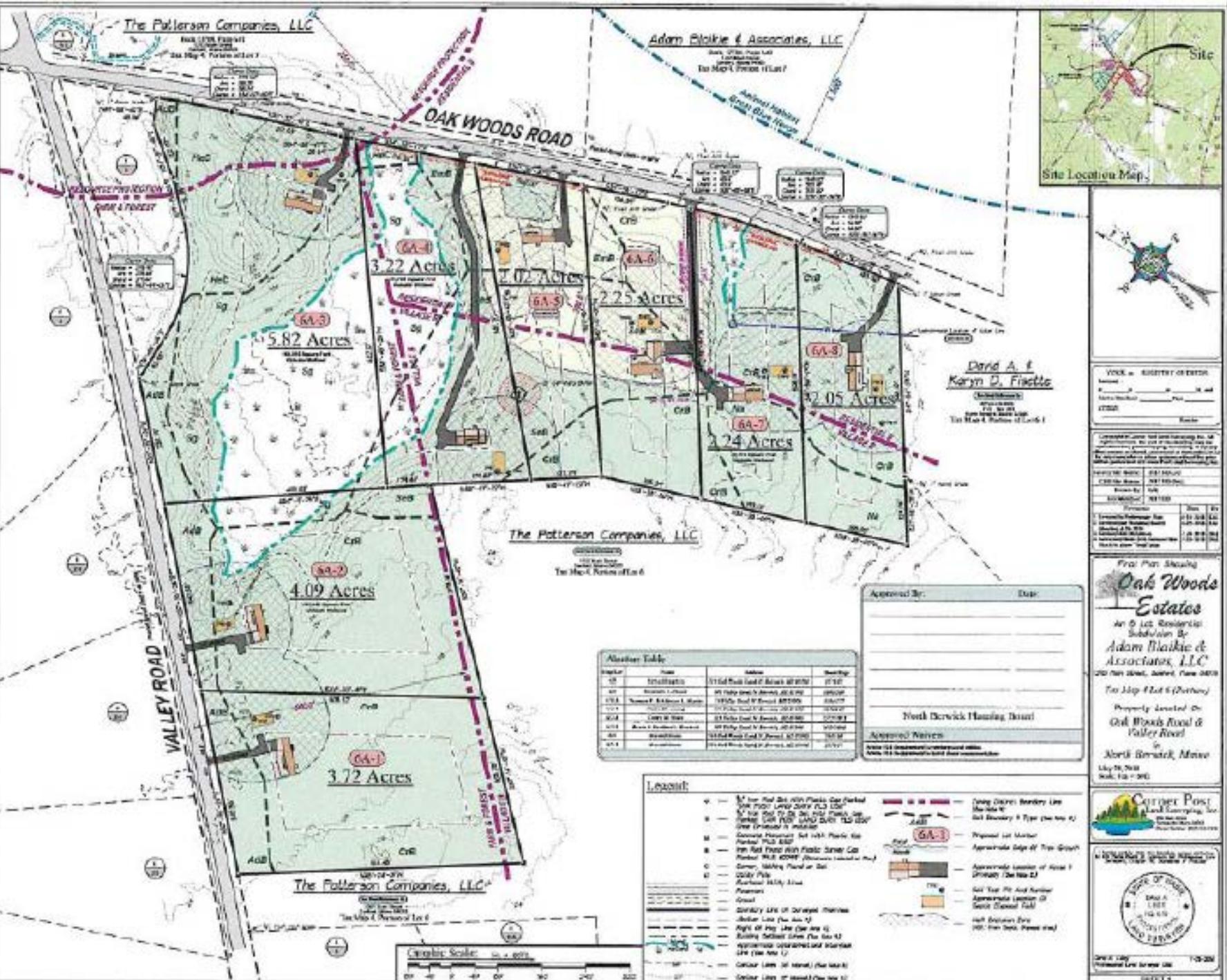
LAND OWNER:
STUART S. GALE
EST. ACERED RD. & CO. LLC
Kennebunk, ME

Civil Permit Plan
Not For Construction

Date: 12/20/2017
Drawing No: C203

00406004101.org

310



Key Conservation Considerations



Image: NRCS - USDA

MS4 Requirements

- MS4: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
- Since 2003, Clean Water Act requirements apply to 14 municipalities in Greater Portland
- Six Minimum Control Measures
 1. Public Education and Outreach
 2. Public Participation
 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 - 4. Management of Construction Site Runoff**
 - 5. Management of Post Construction Site Runoff**
 6. Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations



Current Greater
Portland Regulated
Communities

Implications for Development Review

- New Permit to be issued with additional requirements:
Expected effective date **July 1, 2021**
 - **Additional municipalities could be added in the 2026 Permit**

Key Points for Development Reviewers

- If you don't have an ordinance that "requires the use of erosion and sediment control BMPs" you need one
- Public comment requirements will be enhanced

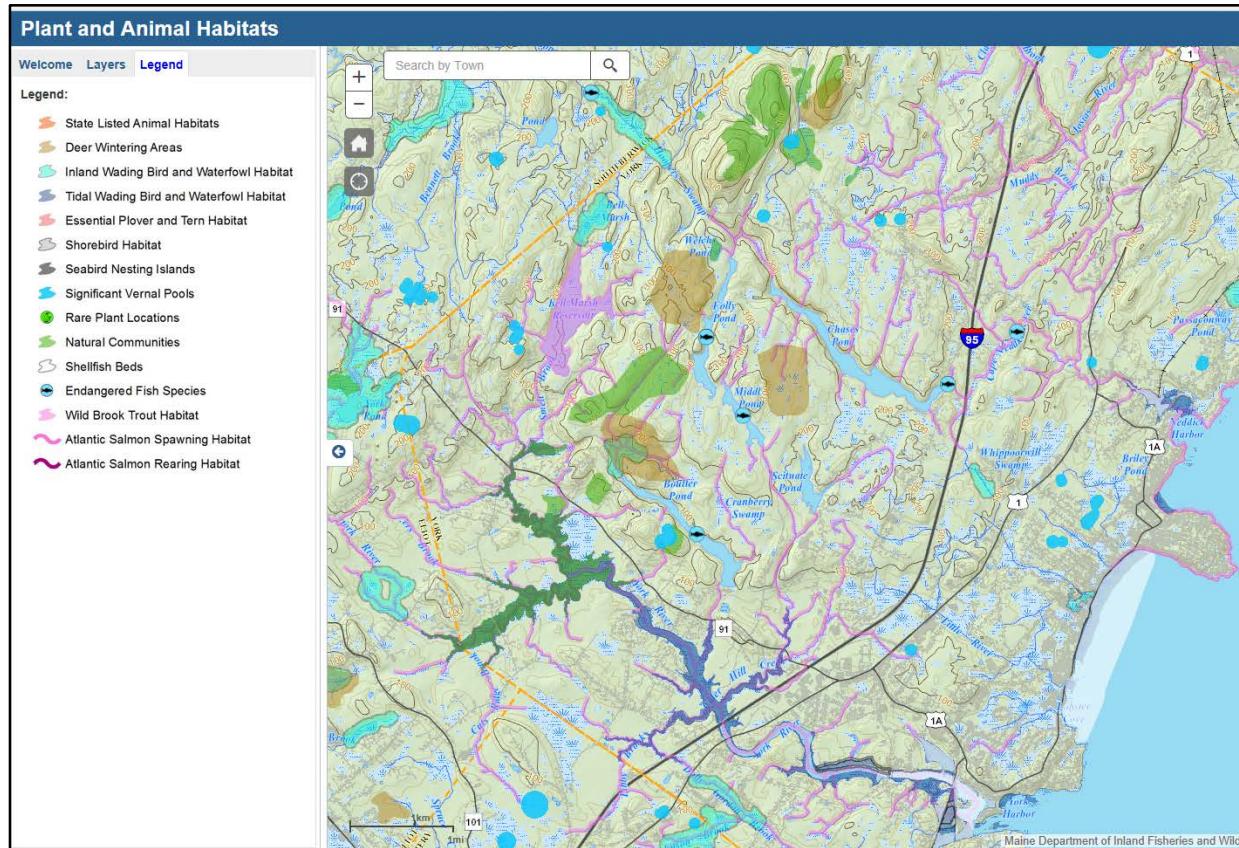
Additional requirements may be added, as MCGP and MS4 permit are under review and will soon be re-issued

Key Conservation Considerations

- Vegetative Buffers
- Shoreland Zone
 - Wetlands
- Stormwater
 - LID/Green infrastructure
 - Impervious (%lot coverage)
- Habitats
- Erosion control
- Landscaping
 - Vegetation
 - Pesticides/herbicides
 - Tree removal
- Open space
 - Connectivity, value
- Hazard areas
 - SLR, surge, marsh migration, slopes

Resources

- Beginning with Habitat <http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/>



Resources

- Conserved lands

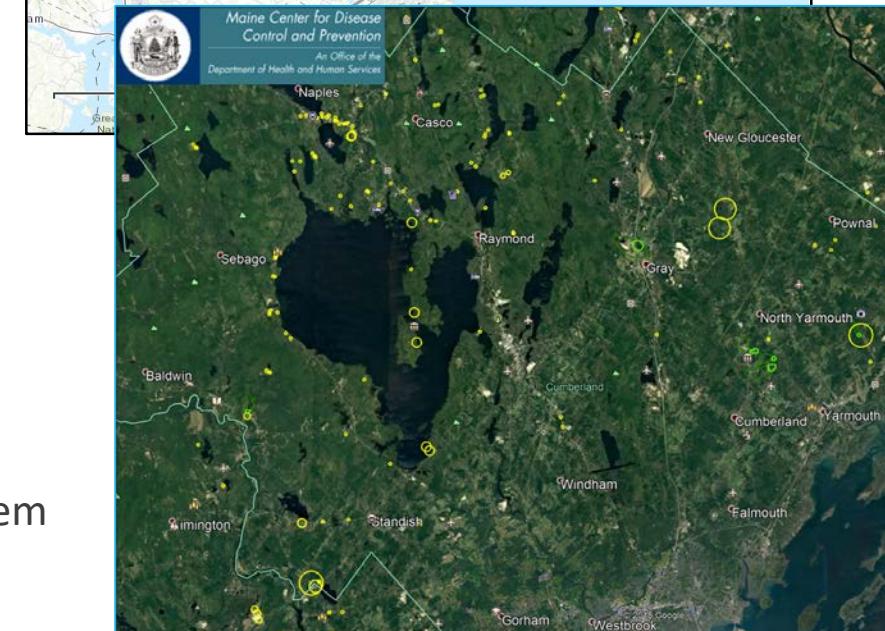
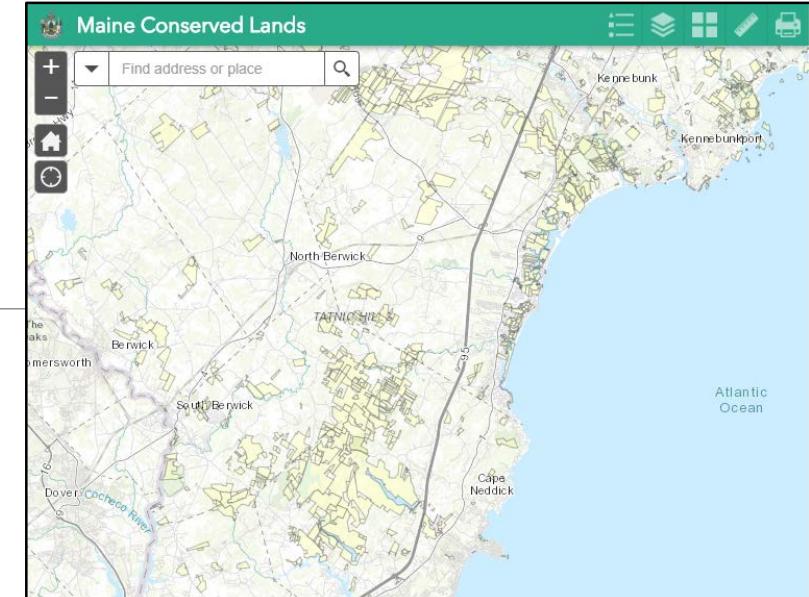
- Land trusts
- Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Bureau of Parks & Lands - Conservation Lands Map
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_maps/conservation_lands_maine.html

- Natural hazards, resiliency, & marsh migration

- MGS Coastal Viewer <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mgs/hazards/coastal/index.shtml>
- TNC Coastal Resilience Tool <http://maps.coastalresilience.org/maine/>

- Other

- Soil & Water Conservation District <http://cumberlandsbcd.org/site/>
- Maine Drinking Water Program Public Water Resources Information System
<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/maps.shtml>
- Locally-specific resources



HANDS-ON EXERCISE

READING PLANS

Interacting with the Planning Board

- Ways to provide input
 - Public Hearing
 - Written comments
 - Meet with Planner
- Balancing different priorities



Questions & Discussion

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