

Oakland Comprehensive Plan
Full Committee: State Biologist Presentation

2.06.2018

4pm

Attendees: Gary Bowman, Mark Fisher, Donna Griffin, Shawn Marquis, Robert Nutting, Kelly Roderick, Dale Sturtevant, Chuck Sweigart, Laura Tracy

Facilitator: Garvan Donegan, CMGC

Presenters:

- Amanda Shearin, Ph.D – Wildlife Biologist & Habitat Outreach Coordinator of Maine Dept. Inland Fishers & Wildlife: Bureau of Resource Management
- Jason Seiders – Regional Fisheries Biologist of Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Agenda:

1. Overview of “Beginning with Habitat” program
2. Review of what agency looks for in CompPlan
3. Description of maps and how to access them
4. Overview of Oakland fisheries
5. Next steps

1. Beginning with Habitat

A transparent, non-regulatory, information-sharing program. Its purpose is not to tell Town how it should look, but to ensure that the best data was used appropriately to inform decisions.

A development project slated for land which contains endangered/threatened species, wetlands, etc. is not necessarily prohibited; it will go through an Environmental Review Process, which is not affiliated with the Beginning with Habitat program. The Dept. Environmental Protection oversees the permitting process.

Beginning with Habitat data comes from local agencies and people (e.g. Town Assessor). The program aims to facilitate a two-way conversation to ensure the most accurate data is recorded. Amanda encourages us to provide feedback regarding the data’s accuracy and ease of use.

2. What Agency Looks for in CompPlan

- Appropriate use of IF&W data that is no more than 3 years old
- Policies and implementation strategies relate to IF&W policies and directives
- Future land use policies and strategies relate to IF&W policies and directives
- A discussion of local natural resources that goes beyond a simple list. What are the local natural resources, and how does the Town envision their conservation? (doesn’t have to be a large discussion about every resource.)

The agency's opinion on the CompPlan will be conglomerated with that of other relevant agencies to inform the Municipal Planning Assistance Program's ultimate decision. (Is the CompPlan consistent with the policies and directives of State agencies?)

Amanda and Jason are happy to review Oakland's CompPlan during the writing process, and to provide expertise and data.

The Town of Morrill wrote a strong CompPlan, from the natural resources perspective.

3. Description of Maps

The maps are available in print (Oakland Town Office will keep a copy), on our Google Drive (subfolder Oakland CompPlan Data + Maps), and on the Beginning with Habitat [website](#) ("[map viewer](#)" tab "map availability" for [Oakland](#)).

- Co-Occurrence Map – overlays a variety of natural resources to give a comprehensive picture of the area
- Location of Water Resources – includes wetlands, wells, riparian areas, brook trout habitats, shellfish growing areas, and aquifers
- Endangered & Threatened Species – Oakland has a couple of rare plants in the northern part of town, as well as wood turtles and bald eagles.
- Undeveloped Habitat Blocks – helpful for wildlife crossings and connecting parcels.
Note: "conserved lands" is a broad term that covers everything from school soccer fields to municipal parks. Does not include tax/easement status.
- Building a Regional Landscape (supplementary) – presents same information on a larger scale
- Wetlands Characterization (supplementary) – provides details on what type of wetlands exist

4. Oakland Fisheries

The Belgrade Lakes region falls under Region B, whose regional office is in Sidney. The office has lots of data on Belgrade Lakes, which are important for their amount of water, fish stocking programs, and economic resources.

The Lakes contain several invasive species, including Northern Pike which decimated the native salmon and trout population. Invasive fish are likely introduced by people, and their presence is nearly impossible to address via policies. Jason recommends focusing on prevention of further introduction of invasive species (i.e. public outreach) and of non-point source pollution.

5. Next Steps

- Full CompPlan committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20th at 4pm
- CompPlan writers and editors begin to research and write sections