

Conservation Commissions 101 Workshop

MEACC has scheduled an informational workshop for new conservation commission members and for people from municipalities interested in forming a conservation commission. Existing commission members are also welcome to attend. Outcomes for the meeting include a deeper understanding of the:

- Role and purpose of conservation commissions and the kind of work effective commissions are doing around the state;
- Key elements common to successful commissions, and the conditions needed for those elements to exist;
- Role of individual commission members and what they can do to contribute to the overall effectiveness of their group; and
- Role and services of MEACC, and how to access the resources of the organization.

The event will be held in Augusta on November 15, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Please register at least 5 days in advance through MEACC's website, www.meacc.net.

This is a good opportunity for new members of your commission to get up to speed on the work of conservation commissions and how they can best contribute to that work.



MEACC had a presence at this year's Maine Municipal Association fall conference, hoping to interest town officials in towns without a conservation commission in creating one. It was a good opportunity to meet and greet people from all over the state and hopefully some seeds were planted. We even discovered three previously unknown commissions.

A major organization goal is to expand the number of commissions in Maine. Currently there are 78 known commissions, up from ±50 six or eight years ago. In 1975, 208 towns had a conservation commission. A list of those towns can be found on our web site.

Pictured above is MEACC's Marcel Polak talking with Jennifer Wallace, a town official in Leeds. Like many towns, Leeds used to have a conservation commission, but no longer does.

Working Forest Focus in Northern York County

MEACC is leading a collaborative effort with the Three Rivers Land Trust, Francis Small Heritage Trust, Maine Forest Service, US Forest Service, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Alfred Conservation Commission, Shapleigh Conservation Commission, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, York County Soil and Water Conservation District, Maine Non-point Education for Municipal Officials, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to work on a landscape scale to conserve and protect private working forestland in ten towns of northwestern York County. Find more information at <http://www.3rlt.org>.

Open Space Plan Forum

If you are involved in open space planning, please join us for a structured conversation on that topic Tuesday evening, November 3rd in Augusta, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Many conservation commissions are actively working to either develop an open space plan or to implement a plan they have developed. Collectively, MEACC members have a wide range of first-hand – and current – experience with this kind work.

Our goal for the evening is to give people an opportunity to learn from each other's experience in ways that will leave you with a richer set of ideas about doing this work, regardless of what stage of the process you are currently in.

More information about this event can be found on our web site, www.meacc.net.