

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, February 13, 2003, 8:00 - 9:30 am  
Malvern-Belmont Estates, 80 Mt. Desert Street, Bar Harbor.

Attending: Robert Coolidge, Sam Coplon, Laureen Donnelly, Michael Good, Carla & Brad Haskell, John Kelly, Ted Koffman, Anne Krieg, Marla Major, Steve Perrin, Sydney Roberts Rockefeller, Cuthbert Train

- Anne Krieg reported on proposed changes to Bar Harbor's land use zoning ordinances. The Bar Harbor Planning Board would like to make three changes: 1) Revise the nonconformity article -- non-conformity articles usually have a limit which brings the application process back to the ordinance, but Bar Harbor's is very "generous;" 2) Rewrite subdivision (?) ordinance, adding affordable and/or cluster development incentives; and 3) Add environmental management controls -- including stormwater management protection, and a 10% buildable lot requirement. The last would require 10% of lot be buildable (applying to subdivision section only). Currently there is no such provision, any land that does not trigger the state definition of "wetlands" can be developed. Bar Harbor's definition of wetlands is established, but the question was raised: how well have other area municipalities defined wetlands?

Ordinances can give the planning board authority to hire a wetlands scientist at the expense of the applicant. Bar Harbor has such an ordinance in the site plan and subdivision section.

*RESEARCH:* state of current ordinances regarding wetlands definition and buildable lots in other municipalities.

Incentives were discussed, and suggestion made that rather than encouraging a "reactive approach to applications," municipalities build into the process a "preamble of options" and a "statement of intent" for the ordinance. Visual representations of the ordinance intent would help applicants, as well.

- The USGS aquifer study of Northeast Creek is expected soon. Bar Harbor will add a three-year funding cycle monitoring wells and aquifers.

*RESEARCH:* For the next state of the Island Report, it would be valuable to include "the state of" current federal and state environmental laws.

- The next MDI Tomorrow conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 12. Each issues group needs to select 3-4 projects it would like to see highlighted at the conference. Project suggestions, from the discussion and Watershed & Habitat Protection Work Plan (attached separately), include:
  1. Education -- Zoning Toolkit presentation (at the conference) by Anne Krieg

2. Education/Planning data -- Beginning with Habitat, NEMO, CommunityViz presentations. Would address a couple of strategies identified by W & HP group:
  - a. Develop GIS maps and database showing wetlands, wildlife corridors, and large open areas MDI
  - b. Go before MDI planning boards, town councils, selectpersons, and other bodies to explain what watersheds are, how they work, and why they are important to the health of the island
3. Produce a web page and interpretive brochure based on #2.
4. Update build-out scenarios using current zoning.
5. In partnership with COA and Acadia National Park, produce a watershed map of MDI with *ground-truthed boundaries* (using wetland definitions defined, or to be defined, locally (?), and requiring fieldwork not included in No. 2).
6. Establish a center on MDI for the study of coastal watershed and habitat protection in the Gulf of Maine region by working with existing agencies/institutions, or by establishing a new year-round research entity.
7. Advocacy – work with local towns to include watershed and habitat awareness in the planning process by supplying information and helping draft local zoning guidelines for urban, residential, and rural areas (e.g., helping citizens set impervious-surface standards based on recent research at the University of Maine).
8. Education -- Declare a “Year of the Watershed” and facilitate hiring a watershed educator or storyteller to work with towns and schools on raising awareness of habitat areas and watersheds on MDI, including their relationships with the receiving waters of Frenchman and Blue Hill Bays and Somes Sound.