



Friends of Midcoast Maine: 2007 Accomplishments

Friends of Midcoast Maine focuses on three broad missions: smart growth education, smart growth project endorsements and smart growth advocacy. During 2007, our accomplishments in these areas have been significant.

FMM Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the hiring of a staff planner in 2007. Elizabeth Della Valle, AICP is providing hands-on technical assistance to midcoast communities, lay people and citizen groups. This direct technical assistance will give our community members the tools they need to make better decisions and to better protect the quality of life and promote economic prosperity in the region.

Smart Growth Education and Technical Assistance

- Local meetings with:
 - Camden Area Futures Group on organizational, board development and on-going issues.
 - Camden citizens and the Camden Area Futures Group on seven consensus building forums around the working waterfront
 - St George to facilitate discussion on the “Livable Landscapes” movie
 - Islesboro Forum presentation on “The Changing Midcoast Landscape”
 - Dresden and Newport presentations on “Is Your Town Farm Friendly”
 - Damariscotta presentation for “Coffee with Champions” panel on Quality Places and Smart Growth
- State Meetings
 - Presentation to the Governor’s Council on Quality Places about regional planning and decision making.
 - Organized and implemented annual meeting for Maine Association of Planners in Topsham.
 - Presentation on “Cottage Development in Bayside, Maine” in Lebanon, New Hampshire
 - Attended the GrowSmart Leadership Council meeting in Hallowell
 - Participant in Maine Downtown Coalition
- Regional meetings
 - Presented keynote address to Blue Hill Regional Chamber of Commerce on land use, the economy and regional planning
 - Discussions with Boothbay Regional Land Trust and several land planners on design workshop.
 - Transported and staffed public informational kiosk for Gateway One.
 - Presented “Demographic Trends and their Impact on Development and Local Governance” in Belfast for Midcoast Regional Planning Commission
 - Hosted Evan Richert’s presentation on Newcomers and Natives: Finding the Common Ground.”
- Technical Assistance provided to:
 - Bar Harbor for the update of the Comprehensive Plan, including visioning sessions, goals, policies, and strategies workshops, and Community VIZ. Developed a tabloid newspaper for printer including layout and editing.
 - Georges River Land Trust staff on the Many Flags Proposal
 - Camden Conservation Commission representatives on the proposed conservation of land abutting the Camden Bog
 - Garden Institute in Camden on fund-raising strategies and sustainability.
 - Rockport citizens, Aldermere Farm and Maine Farmlands Trust to purchase and preserve Route 90 parcels.

- *Midcoast Maine Matters* meetings sponsored by Friends of Midcoast Maine on:
 - “New Shoreland Protection Guidelines” with Rich Baker from DEP in Newcastle and Rockland.
 - “Improving Public Participation” with Judy Colby George and Beth Della Valle in Newcastle and Lincolnville.
- Consensus Building Assistance provided to:
 - Camden Area Futures Group organization with consensus building and working waterfront issues.
 - Discussed possible facilitation opportunities with various midcoast communities for use of community buildings, land acquisition and public facility expansion plans.
 - Facilitated discussion on video “Smart Growth, Consensus Building and Community Change” in St George.

Smart Growth Project Endorsements

- Met with Endorsement Committee to revise and improve Endorsement Program application criteria and public engagement process

Smart Growth Advocacy

- Maine Downtown Coalition
- GrowSmart Maine alliance
- Gateway One Steering Committee
- Developed FMM board position paper on Wiscasset’s proposed coal fired gasification plant.

In addition to our broad mission areas, we have made significant progress toward developing our organization through our collaboration with other organizations, serving on boards and committees, and spreading the word about our organization.

Collaboration with other Organizations

- Collaborating organizations include:
 - GrowSmart Maine
 - Maine Association of Planners
 - Georges River Land Trust
 - Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association
 - Time and Tide Resource Conservation and Development
 - Gateway One (21 Town Regional Planning Process for the Route One Corridor)
 - Camden Area Futures Group
- Ongoing collaboration with area land trusts, regional planning commissions, chambers of commerce, downtown business groups, local planning boards, and comprehensive planning committees.
 - Developed FMM position paper on the Brookings report

Membership and Development

- Organized and held FMM Annual Meeting with speakers, annual awards program and 125 attendees in Camden at the Whitehall Inn.
- Presented 2 Annual Smart Growth Awards to:
 - Bath Train Station revitalization
 - Gateway One Steering Committee for Gateway One Planning Process.
- .Organized a donor appreciation party in Camden for FMM donors.

*We need your help to continue our important work.
Please become a member of Friends of Midcoast Maine!*