

## Land Development and Personal Property Rights:



## Striking a Balance in Hancock County

*We hope you will join us for the twenty-sixth session in our Striking a Balance workshop series, which is addressing important growth and development issues facing local planning boards and Hancock County as a whole. The April 25, 2013 workshop will focus on the Farmland Registration Act and Current Use Taxation. PLEASE NOTE: CEO/LPI'S & ASSESSORS WILL QUALIFY FOR THREE LAND USE CREDIT HOURS.*

VFW Hall  
419 Main Street, Ellsworth  
(locally known as Washington Junction Road)  
April 25, 2013  
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Dinner begins at 5:00 PM  
Workshop begins at 6:00 PM

Registration \$18.00

NONPROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 95  
ELLSWORTH, ME 04605

Hancock County Planning Commission  
395 State Street  
Ellsworth, ME 04605



**Please distribute this notice to your planning boards, conservation commissions, assessors, CEO's/LPI's, and other interested parties. A copy is available on-line: [www.hcpcme.org](http://www.hcpcme.org)**

### Registration Information

Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrations will not be accepted at the door.**

**Please provide registration form and payment by Monday, April 22, 2013 to:**

\$18.00 each  
Registration

Includes  
Workshop  
Materials and  
Light Dinner.

Hancock County Planning Commission  
395 State Street  
Ellsworth, ME 04605

*Please join us on ...*

**April 25, 2013**

**5:00-8:30 PM**

**VFW Hall**

**419 Main Street**

**(Washington Junction Road)**

**Ellsworth, Maine**



## **AGENDA**

**5:00 PM Registration and light meal**

**6:00 PM Welcome and Introduction:** *Tom Martin, Executive Director, Hancock County Planning Commission*

**6:05 PM: Farmland and Tree Growth Property Tax Programs: Voluntary Land Protection.** *Andy Shultz, Landowner Outreach Coordinator, Maine Forest Service, & Stephanie Gilbert, Farm Viability & Farmland Protection Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.* The purpose, eligibility criteria and application procedures for the Farmland and Tree Growth Property Tax Programs.

**7:05 PM: Farmland Registration: Voluntary protection of farm operations.** *Stephanie Gilbert, The program benefits, eligibility criteria and application timelines.*

**7:45 PM: The Future of Agriculture in Maine** *Professor John Jemison, Jr. Extension Professor of Soil and Water Quality. University of Maine.*

**8:10 PM: Concluding Remarks and Return of Evaluation Forms**

**8:30 PM Adjournment**

### ***Striking a Balance***

An outgrowth of the HCPC's Planning For Prosperity initiative, the on-going forum series started in 2004.

A rapid increase in demand for subdivided property in Hancock County spurred the creation of this series. Organizers hope that the series will lead to:

- ✓ Increased Awareness of Subdivision Review Standards and Other Applicable State Regulations
- ✓ Greater Understanding of the Importance of Regional Water Resource Management
- ✓ Implementation of Planning Tools & Wise Development Practices
- ✓ Constructive Dialogue Among Municipal Officials, Conservation Groups and Those in the Development & Construction Industry
- ✓ Better Development Tracking at the Municipal and County Level

### **Did you know:**

- Registration of Farmland Act (Title 7, Chapter 2-B) authorizes farmers to apply at any time to prohibit "incompatible use" within 50 feet of registered farmland, and to ensure that buyers are alerted when purchasing property that abuts registered farmland.
- The most recent (2007) USDA Census indicated that there were 386 farms in Hancock County and 52,749 acres of farmland.
- The estimated value of agriculture sales in Hancock County is about \$30.4 million per annum. The county has the fifth highest value of sales in the state.
- In 2011, there were 5,419 acres in Hancock County enrolled in the farmland taxation program, about 10 percent of total reported farmland.

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