

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Machias Downtown Resilience and Renewal Community Meeting

June 14, 2018 – Are you a business owner, resident or property owner in downtown Machias? Are you concerned about flooding and erosion issues in downtown Machias? Do you have photos or anecdotes to share about downtown Machias and the river that runs through it?

With the support of a team of consultants the town is working on flood and erosion protection alternatives for downtown Machias. The area under study stretches along the river from the foot of Center Street behind the Machias Hardware building to the boat launch near the dike, across the dike, and up the Middle River near the wastewater treatment plant. Rich in history, this shoreline has changed significantly over time. The work of this study is looking back over 100 years as well as forward to the next 100 years. While this study is separate from Maine DOT's proposed renovations to the dike, it is obviously related and our work will be coordinated with Maine DOT.

Two community meetings are planned, one on June 27 and another in the fall. The June 27 meeting will be held in Science 102 at the University of Maine at Machias from 7-9 PM. Please attend. We are looking for community input and ideas.

A presentation will provide the community with the purpose of the work, preliminary design alternatives that are under consideration, and an opportunity to have a say in the work that will proceed over the summer. The community meeting in the fall will provide another opportunity for Machias residents to see and comment on the results.

This work is funded by a Coastal Communities grant from the Maine Coastal Program to complete three discrete yet related planning tasks. These include 1) a feasibility study which will identify conceptual designs and establish a plan to build flood protection along the existing seawall in downtown Machias, 2) an economic analysis of the protection afforded by improving flood protection to the businesses in downtown Machias, and 3) conceptual plans incorporating seawall improvements into the restoration of the historic wharf and river walk, which could separate pedestrians from vehicle traffic and revitalize downtown Machias.

Each task contributes towards making downtown Machias more resilient, and taken together, provide a complimentary approach to achieving a more sustainable and vibrant community.

For more information please contact the project manager Judy East, Executive Director of the Washington County Council of Governments (WCCOG). WCCOG is a municipal membership organization that provides local and regional land use planning and technical assistance to municipalities in Washington County. Our purpose is to support local self-government; combine resources to meet challenges that may exceed the capacity of municipal government; facilitate communication and coordination among governments and agencies; identify opportunities and bring resources into the county; and provide a regional voice for the people of Washington County.