

## STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

## 22 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0022

WALTER E. WHITCOMB COMMISSIONER

PAUL R. LEPAGE GOVERNOR

> Teresa S. Pierce, Chair, Town Council Samuel Rudman, Chair, Long Range Planning Advisory Committee Town of Falmouth 271 Falmouth Road Falmouth, ME 04105

February 7, 2014

Dear Ms. Pierce and Mr. Rudman;

Congratulations! We are happy to inform you that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry finds the 2013 Falmouth Comprehensive Plan, revised 2/7/2014, to be <u>complete</u> and <u>consistent</u> with Maine's Growth Management Act. Thanks to the hard work of the Long Range Planning Advisory Committee, its Town Council liaisons, the Director of Long Range Planning, other municipal officials and involved citizens, this excellent plan will provide important guidance to the Town's decision-makers for years to come.

Upon accepting your plan for review, we solicited comments from relevant state agencies, neighboring towns and your regional planning organization. We subsequently received comments from the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry (Maine Forest Service), and Department of Transportation. Those written comments are attached to this letter.

Much to their credit, Long Range Planning Director, Theo Holtwijk, and others involved in the review process have treated each agency comment and suggestion as an opportunity to improve and clarify the Plan. In our consistency findings, we often urge towns to consider amending their plans to reflect suggestions offered in the agency comments. In this case, however, there is no need for such encouragement. The proposed revisions submitted in response to the comments effectively address not only the substantive issues, but the agency suggestions, as well.

Again, please accept our congratulations and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have going forward.

Sincere Best Wishes,

Phil Carey Senior Planner Municipal Planning Assistance Program

Cc (via email): Elizabeth Hertz, Director, DACF Municipal Planning Assistance Program Nathan Poore, Falmouth Town Manager Theo Holtwijk, Falmouth Director of Long Range Planning Rebeccah Schaffner, Greater Portland Council of Governments