



STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



PAUL R. LEPAGE

GOVERNOR

PATRICIA W. AHO

COMMISSIONER

March 2013

The Woodlands Club
39 Woods Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
ATTN: Bill Robinson, General Manager

RE: Site Location of Development Minor Revision Application, Falmouth, #L-13859-L3-M-M
*Corrected Order

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Please find enclosed a signed copy of your Department of Environmental Protection land use permit. You will note that the permit includes a description of your project, findings of fact that relate to the approval criteria the Department used in evaluating your project, and conditions that are based on those findings and the particulars of your project. Please take several moments to read your permit carefully, paying particular attention to the conditions of the approval. The Department reviews every application thoroughly and strives to formulate reasonable conditions of approval within the context of the Department's environmental laws. You will also find attached some materials that describe the Department's appeal procedures for your information.

If you have any questions about the permit or thoughts on how the Department processed this application please get in touch with me directly. I can be reached at (207) 592-1692 or at Marybeth.richardson@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Richardson, Project Manager
Division of Land Resource Regulation
Bureau of Land and Water Quality

pc: File

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826
RAY BLDG., HOSPITAL ST

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769-2094
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 764-3143

WEB SITE: WWW.MAINE.GOV/DEP



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333

DEPARTMENT ORDER
IN THE MATTER OF

THE WOODLANDS CLUB) SITE LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT ACT
Falmouth, Cumberland County)
HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN) MINOR REVISION
L-13859-L3-M-M (approval)) FINDINGS OF FACT AND ORDER
*(Corrected Order)

Pursuant to the provisions of 38 M.R.S.A., Sections 481 *et seq.*, the Department of Environmental Protection has considered the application of THE WOODLANDS CLUB with the supporting data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

A. History of Project: In Board Order #L-13859-30/86-A-N, dated June 26, 1987, (original Order dated April 22, 1987, petition for reconsideration dated June 26, 1987), the Board approved the development of an 18-hole golf course and a 95-lot residential subdivision on an approximately 350-acre parcel of land, known as The Woodlands Club. To offset potential impacts to wildlife habitat as a result of the development, the Board Order required the applicant to acquire an approximately 100-acre parcel of open space, which was subsequently donated to the Town of Falmouth. According to the Board Order, "Among the habitat which will be lost is a 140-acre area considered by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to be an important deer wintering area. . . about 20 deer were using the area for winter cover as of February 1987." An additional 40 acres of land was added to the open space to provide the full offset. Special Condition #6(E) of the Board Order stated: "The applicant shall, by written agreement with the Town of Falmouth, ensure that 40 acres of the Town's property, as described in Finding 20B of this Order, will be maintained as wildlife habitat in accordance with the plan approved pursuant to Condition 6C of this Order." Condition 6C required that the applicant ensure by deed restriction that the parcel be maintained in accordance with a management plan approved by the Department.

B. Summary: The applicant proposes to change the terms of the management agreement by transferring the management responsibility for the *140-acre parcel to the Town of Falmouth. In an electronic memorandum dated February 4, 2013, the Manager of the Town of Falmouth stated that the Town fully supports this proposal. The applicant also proposes to change the terms of the agreement by allowing hunting and snowmobile use on the property, both of which are currently prohibited under the existing agreement.

The agreement currently allows the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on the Central Maine Power easement that crosses the *140-acre parcel. The proposed changes include prohibiting ATV use, which would be consistent with Town ordinances and CMP policy. The property is located on Woods Road in the Town of Falmouth.

The Town of Falmouth supports the proposed changes, due in part to the fact that the land abuts a town-owned parcel known as the Woods Road Community Forest, which is managed by the Town to promote winter deer use. According to the application, "The town's forest management plan and the forestry provisions in the existing agreement are largely congruent regarding forest management objectives and harvesting practices: the property should be actively managed to sustain the existing deeryard and to generate the early succession growth needed to create a healthy understory to provide food and cover for deer and other wildlife species."

The applicant submitted a draft document titled "Exhibit 'A' Wildlife Habitat Management Plan – Woodlands Conservation Parcel." The draft language contains the same language as the original approved and recorded Exhibit regarding harvest provisions to encourage and maximize browse production on the parcel and the requirement for any harvest plan to be reviewed by a biologist from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) prior to any harvest.

C. Current Use of Site: The Woodlands Conservation parcel is a wooded area that is adjacent to the Woods Road Community Forest off Woods Road in the Town of Falmouth.

2. FINDING:

The proposed changes to the terms of the management agreement were reviewed by a wildlife biologist from MDIFW. In an electronic memorandum dated February 27, 2013, MDIFW staff stated: "The forest management plan is consistent with the original intent of the mitigation. The addition of hunting as an approved recreational use is consistent with our efforts to meet deer management goals and objectives. The Town of Falmouth has demonstrated the ability to manage parcels of similar size."

Based on MDIFW's review, the proposed project is a minor change and will not significantly affect any other issues identified during previous Department reviews of the project site.

Based on its review of the application, the Department finds the requested minor revision to be in accordance with all relevant Departmental standards. All other findings of fact, conclusions and conditions remain as approved in Board Order #L-13859-30/86-A-N, and subsequent orders.

BASED on the above findings of fact, and subject to the conditions listed below, the Department makes the following conclusions pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A. Sections 481 et seq.:

- A. The applicant has provided adequate evidence of financial capacity and technical ability to develop the project in a manner consistent with state environmental standards.
- B. The applicant has made adequate provision for fitting the development harmoniously into the existing natural environment and the development will not adversely affect existing uses, scenic character, air quality, water quality or other natural resources in the municipality or in neighboring municipalities.
- C. The proposed development will be built on soil types which are suitable to the nature of the undertaking and will not cause unreasonable erosion of soil or sediment nor inhibit the natural transfer of soil.
- D. The proposed development meets the standards for storm water management in Section 420-D and the standard for erosion and sedimentation control in Section 420-C.
- E. The proposed development will not pose an unreasonable risk that a discharge to a significant groundwater aquifer will occur.
- F. The applicant has made adequate provision of utilities, including water supplies, sewerage facilities and solid waste disposal required for the development and the development will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on the existing or proposed utilities in the municipality or area served by those services.
- G. The activity will not unreasonably cause or increase the flooding of the alteration area or adjacent properties nor create an unreasonable flood hazard to any structure.

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the application of THE WOODLANDS CLUB to transfer management responsibility for the *140-acre open space parcel from the applicant to the Town of Falmouth as described in Finding 1, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS and all applicable standards and regulations:

- 1. The Standard Conditions of Approval, a copy attached.
- 2. In addition to any specific erosion control measures described in this or previous orders, the applicant shall take all necessary actions to ensure that its activities or those of its agents do not result in noticeable erosion of soils or fugitive dust emissions on the site during the construction and operation of the project covered by this approval.
- 3. Severability. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision, or part thereof, of this License shall not affect the remainder of the provision or any other provisions. This

License shall be construed and enforced in all respects as if such invalid or unenforceable provision or part thereof had been omitted.

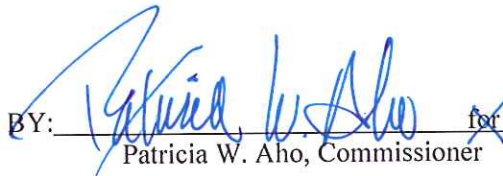
4. All other Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Conditions remain as approved in Board Order #L-13859-30/86-A-N, and subsequent orders, and are incorporated herein.

THIS APPROVAL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE OR SUBSTITUTE FOR ANY OTHER REQUIRED STATE, FEDERAL OR LOCAL APPROVALS NOR DOES IT VERIFY COMPLIANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE SHORELAND ZONING ORDINANCES.

DONE AND DATED IN AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 5th DAY OF April, 2013.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*CORRECTING THE ORDER DATED 03/22/2013. The effective date and expiration date remain the same as in the original.

BY:  for
Patricia W. Aho, Commissioner



PLEASE NOTE THE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES...

MR/L13859MM/ATS#75737

**DEP SITE LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT (SITE) STANDARD CONDITIONS
STRICT CONFORMANCE WITH THE STANDARD AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THIS
APPROVAL IS NECESSARY FOR THE PROJECT TO MEET THE STATUTORY CRITERIA FOR
APPROVAL.**

- A. Approval of Variations from Plans.** The granting of this approval is dependent upon and limited to the proposals and plans contained in the application and supporting documents submitted and affirmed to by the applicant. Any variation from these plans, proposals, and supporting documents is subject to review and approval prior to implementation. Further subdivision of proposed lots by the applicant or future owners is specifically prohibited without prior approval of the Board, and the applicant shall include deed restrictions to that effect.
- B. Compliance with All Applicable Laws.** The applicant shall secure and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local licenses, permits, authorizations, conditions, agreements, and orders prior to or during construction and operation, as appropriate.
- C. Compliance with All Terms and Conditions of Approval.** The applicant shall submit all reports and information requested by the Board or the Department demonstrating that the applicant has complied or will comply with all preconstruction terms and conditions of this approval. All preconstruction terms and conditions must be met before construction begins.
- D. Advertising.** Advertising relating to matters included in this application shall refer to this approval only if it notes that the approval has been granted WITH CONDITIONS, and indicates where copies of those conditions may be obtained.
- E. Transfer of Development.** Unless otherwise provided in this approval, the applicant shall not sell, lease, assign or otherwise transfer the development or any portion thereof without prior written approval of the Board where the purpose or consequence of the transfer is to transfer any of the obligations of the developer as incorporated in this approval. Such approval shall be granted only if the applicant or transferee demonstrates to the Board that the transferee has the technical capacity and financial ability to comply with conditions of this approval and the proposals and plans contained in the application and supporting documents submitted by the applicant.
- F. Time frame for approvals.** If the construction or operation of the activity is not begun within four years, this approval shall lapse and the applicant shall reapply to the Board for a new approval. The applicant may not begin construction or operation of the development until a new approval is granted. A reapplication for approval may include information submitted in the initial application by reference. This approval, if construction is begun within the four-year time frame, is valid for seven years. If construction is not completed within the seven-year time frame, the applicant must reapply for, and receive, approval prior to continuing construction.
- G. Approval Included in Contract Bids.** A copy of this approval must be included in or attached to all contract bid specifications for the development.
- H. Approval Shown to Contractors.** Work done by a contractor pursuant to this approval shall not begin before the contractor has been shown by the developer a copy of this approval.



DEP INFORMATION SHEET

Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: March 2012

Contact: (207) 287-2811

SUMMARY

There are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a licensing decision made by the Department of Environmental Protection's ("DEP") Commissioner: (1) in an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection ("Board"); or (2) in a judicial process before Maine's Superior Court. An aggrieved person seeking review of a licensing decision over which the Board had original jurisdiction may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

A judicial appeal of final action by the Commissioner or the Board regarding an application for an expedited wind energy development (35-A M.R.S.A. § 3451(4)) or a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 480-HH(1)) or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 636-A) must be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court.

This INFORMATION SHEET, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, can help a person to understand his or her rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

LEGAL REFERENCES

The laws concerning the DEP's *Organization and Powers*, 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 341-D(4) & 346, the *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001, and the DEP's *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters* ("Chapter 2"), 06-096 CMR 2 (April 1, 2003).

HOW LONG YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

The Board must receive a written appeal within 30 days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board. Appeals filed after 30 calendar days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be rejected.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

Signed original appeal documents must be sent to: Chair, Board of Environmental Protection, c/o Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0017; faxes are acceptable for purposes of meeting the deadline when followed by the Board's receipt of mailed original documents within five (5) working days. Receipt on a particular day must be by 5:00 PM at DEP's offices in Augusta; materials received after 5:00 PM are not considered received until the following day. The person appealing a licensing decision must also send the DEP's Commissioner a copy of the appeal documents and if the person appealing is not the applicant in the license proceeding at issue the applicant must also be sent a copy of the appeal documents. All of the information listed in the next section must be submitted at the time the appeal is filed. Only the extraordinary circumstances described at the end of that section will justify evidence not in the DEP's record at the time of decision being added to the record for consideration by the Board as part of an appeal.

WHAT YOUR APPEAL PAPERWORK MUST CONTAIN

Appeal materials must contain the following information at the time submitted:

1. *Aggrieved Status.* The appeal must explain how the person filing the appeal has standing to maintain an appeal. This requires an explanation of how the person filing the appeal may suffer a particularized injury as a result of the Commissioner's decision.
2. *The findings, conclusions or conditions objected to or believed to be in error.* Specific references and facts regarding the appellant's issues with the decision must be provided in the notice of appeal.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* If possible, specific regulations, statutes or other facts should be referenced. This may include citing omissions of relevant requirements, and errors believed to have been made in interpretations, conclusions, and relevant requirements.
4. *The remedy sought.* This can range from reversal of the Commissioner's decision on the license or permit to changes in specific permit conditions.
5. *All the matters to be contested.* The Board will limit its consideration to those arguments specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* The Board will hear presentations on appeals at its regularly scheduled meetings, unless a public hearing on the appeal is requested and granted. A request for public hearing on an appeal must be filed as part of the notice of appeal.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* The Board may allow new or additional evidence, referred to as supplemental evidence, to be considered by the Board in an appeal only when the evidence is relevant and material and that the person seeking to add information to the record can show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process or that the evidence itself is newly discovered and could not have been presented earlier in the process. Specific requirements for additional evidence are found in Chapter 2.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license application file is public information, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions, made easily accessible by DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make the material available during normal working hours, provide space to review the file, and provide opportunity for photocopying materials. There is a charge for copies or copying services.
2. *Be familiar with the regulations and laws under which the application was processed, and the procedural rules governing your appeal.* DEP staff will provide this information on request and answer questions regarding applicable requirements.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. A license holder may proceed with a project pending the outcome of an appeal but the license holder runs the risk of the decision being reversed or modified as a result of the appeal.

WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU FILE A TIMELY APPEAL WITH THE BOARD

The Board will formally acknowledge receipt of an appeal, including the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal. The notice of appeal, any materials accepted by the Board Chair as supplementary evidence, and any materials submitted in response to the appeal will be sent to Board members with a recommendation from DEP staff. Persons filing appeals and interested

persons are notified in advance of the date set for Board consideration of an appeal or request for public hearing. With or without holding a public hearing, the Board may affirm, amend, or reverse a Commissioner decision or remand the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings. The Board will notify the appellant, a license holder, and interested persons of its decision.

II. JUDICIAL APPEALS

Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner or Board licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court, see 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(1); 06-096 CMR 2; 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001; & M.R. Civ. P 80C. A party's appeal must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. Failure to file a timely appeal will result in the Board's or the Commissioner's decision becoming final.

An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. See 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(4).

Maine's Administrative Procedure Act, DEP statutes governing a particular matter, and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure must be consulted for the substantive and procedural details applicable to judicial appeals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, for administrative appeals contact the Board's Executive Analyst at (207) 287-2452 or for judicial appeals contact the court clerk's office in which your appeal will be filed.

Note: The DEP provides this INFORMATION SHEET for general guidance only; it is not intended for use as a legal reference. Maine law governs an appellant's rights.
