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ERIC DYER

September 1, 2008

To: Members of the Cranberry Isles community
From: Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

As many of you are aware, the town of Cranberry Isles is in the process of creating a Comprehensive Plan. While developing the plan involves a great deal of work, it also presents an opportunity to think about what we value most as a community and what course we want to set for our future. Like death and taxes, one thing we can count on is change. Whether we like it or not, our community is changing. With or without a plan, change will continue to occur. A comprehensive plan offers an opportunity to chart our future in the face of inevitable change.

Steps in the process include compiling town data, identifying public issues and concerns, and projecting future activity or growth based on past trends. Other preliminary steps include assessing the adequacy of services, facilities and existing regulations. Developed from this groundwork are a set of goals, a future land use plan, and a capital investment plan.

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee includes Steve Philbrook, Barbara Stainton, Cindy Thomas, Erica Merrill, Malcolm Donald, Bruce Komusin, Dan Lief, and Lise Pratt. In addition, Tom Martin (Hancock County Planning Commission) and Emily Axelrod have served as advisors to the process. The committee has conducted a survey of island residents to identify issues and areas of concern and has held a series of public workshops. We invite you now to review and comment on our work to date.

The purpose of the public review process is to gather as wide a range of input from as many members of the community as possible and to develop consensus around a shared vision for the future of the town. The review process will include a series of public forums, currently scheduled for **September 27th**, **October 11/12th** (with meetings on both islands), and **December 6th**. Additional public meetings will be scheduled on both islands as needed. Please check the town website www.cranberryisles-me.gov, for details of time and place, or call the town office at 244-4475. For those of you who are unable to attend the meetings, your comments may be submitted by email to compplan@cranberryisles-me.gov or by telephone to any committee member.

The agenda for the **September 27th meeting** will include a discussion of the **vision of the town's future** and of **community issues and concerns**. The goal will be to reach consensus about a shared vision statement that will be incorporated into the plan. It would be helpful if each of you could think hard about your vision for our town's future, write a few lines about that, and submit it in advance of the meeting. Comments may be left at the town office or emailed to compplan@cranberryisles-me.gov. A draft vision statement is posted on the town website as well as a summary of issues of public concern the committee has compiled. Also posted is the *Inventory & Analysis* draft document, providing background information and data on a variety of topics. The committee would appreciate receiving feedback on this draft document to ensure it is an accurate report. Hard copies of all posted documents will also be available for review at the town office and at the libraries on both Great Cranberry and Islesford.

Please bear in mind that the documents that are being made available for public review are working drafts and not final documents. The various documents will be amended to reflect the feedback and input received in the coming months through the public review process. When a consensus has been reached, the plan will be submitted to the State Planning Office for review for consistency with state guidelines. It then comes back to the town for possible revisions, a final public hearing, and then vote at town meeting. It should be noted that although not mandated, a comprehensive plan is required by the state if the town is to be given preference to certain competitive state grants and if it enacts land use regulations or zoning ordinances that exceed the state minimum standards.

To be meaningful and useful in the coming years, the final plan should be an honest assessment and reflect a community consensus. The review process aims to solicit input from a diverse group of stakeholders, including both year-round and seasonal residents. Recommendations made in the plan to address issues and concerns, particularly relating to long-term goals, proposed implementation measures and future land use, are often controversial. We encourage everyone to think about what is best for the long-range future of the town of Cranberry Isles and to offer your point of view in the upcoming public forums.

Committee members look forward to hearing from you, and to seeing you at the upcoming meetings.

Sincerely,

TCI Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

TOWN OF CRANBERRY ISLES
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
September 2008

The Comprehensive Plan is made up of several parts: *Inventory & Analysis*; *Goals, Objectives and Implementation Strategies*; *Future Land Use Plan* and maps; and a *Capital Investment Plan*.

As DRAFT plan elements are developed by the committee, they will be posted on the town website (www.cranberryisles-me.gov) in the “town documents” section. Draft documents and maps are also posted on the Hancock County Planning Commission website (www.hcpcme.org/landuse/cranberryisle/cranberryisleplan.htm). Hard copies of all posted documents will also be available for review at the town office and at the libraries on both Great Cranberry and Islesford.

At the time of this mailing, the *2005 Survey Results* and the *DRAFT Inventory & Analysis* are posted. Working drafts of the *Goals, Objectives and Implementation Strategies*, *Future Land Use Plan* and *Capital Investment Plan* elements will be posted over the coming months.

Comments may be submitted at any time by email to compplan@cranberryisles-me.gov. If you prefer to contact a committee member directly, their contact information is listed on the town website and below.

Topics for discussion at the public review forum on September 27th will be the Vision Statement and Issues of Public Concern. This meeting will be facilitated by Ron Beard of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. Subsequent meetings will deal with the *Goals, Objectives and Implementation Strategies*, the *Future Land Use Plan* and maps, and the *Capital Improvement Plan*.

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Cindy Thomas	catislesford@hotmail.com , 244-5876
Bruce Komusin	bkomusin@cranberryisles.com , 244-3682
Erica Merrill	summer: 244-7884, winter: 244-4187
Barbara Stainton	westernway129@gmail.com , work 244-7316, home 244-4067
Lise Pratt	emp@maine.rr.com , summer 244-3426, winter 799-8067
Steve Philbrook	stevephilbrook@yahoo.com , 244-3782
Malcolm Donald	madonald@verizon.net , 244-5244
Dan Lief	dan@ubuntufund.org , 244-9455

Advisors:

Emily Axelrod	emily02138@gmail.com , summer 244-3151, winter 617- 491-7585
Tom Martin	tmartin@hcpcme.org , 667-7131