

Cherryfield Planning Board 2023 Highlights

New Planning Board members welcomed to the team in 2023 are Kim Smith, Ryan Beal, and Ryan Shaw. Continuing members are Billie Jo Brooks and Crystal Hitchings.

Planning Board meetings are now held on the **3rd Wednesday** of **each month** at **6:00pm** at the Town Office. The public is always welcome to join us to listen in or bring land use topics or concerns to the Board for discussion.

The job of the Cherryfield Planning Board is to ensure that land use and development in Cherryfield meets the requirements of the current Land Use Ordinance. The Planning Board's role also includes developing new ordinances or updates to existing ordinances to support the community's long range goals, which are outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. Both the Land Use Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan are developed and approved by Cherryfield citizens. Any proposed changes must go through public review and voting.

In 2023, the Planning Board developed new applications and new application fees for land use and development proposals, including residential building permits. The purpose of this update is to simplify and clarify the application and review process. The Planning Board and Town are also working together to insure that applications for non-residential buildings are reviewed and permitted by the Planning Board. Residential buildings include single-family homes and duplexes only. All other construction proposals must be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board. Changes of use in an already developed site also must be reviewed by the Planning Board. Potential applicants are encouraged to bring proposals to the Planning Board early in their process for discussion and guidance in the application process.

Land-use topics brought to the Planning Board for discussion throughout 2023 include short-term rentals in village neighborhoods, and development of solar farms. As we explore these topics related to Cherryfield's long range vision, we would like to hear about your thoughts, observations, and experiences. Please send us an email or attend a meeting. Visit the Town website www.cherryfieldmaine.us to find the current Land use Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, meeting minutes, and more.

Please contact the Planning Board Chair, Crystal Hitchings, at CherryfieldPlanningBoard@gmail.com.