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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION
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AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

STACIE R. BEYER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Memorandum

To: LUPC Commissioners
CC: Stacie R. Beyer, Executive Director
From: Tim Carr, Senior Planner
Date: May 4, 2023
Re: Gathering Public Input on Short-Term Rental Activity and Policy

At the March 8, 2023 meeting, the Commission directed staff to gather public input on short-term rental (STR) activity and the staff's recommendation that the Commission consider regulating STRs by adopting a notice requirement and STR-specific standards. This item is a report to the Commission on the staff's plan for gathering public input.

To gather public feedback, staff plan to hold three in-person meetings and two virtual meetings during June and July 2023. In-person meetings will be held in the Millinocket, Moosehead, and Rangeley areas as these regions have the greatest STR activity within the Commission's service area. There will also be a comment period during the same time allowing interested parties to submit written comment to the Commission. Communication about in-person and virtual meetings, submitting written comments, and policy options will be facilitated by an STR-specific webpage on the Commission's website, an STR-specific GovDelivery email notification service, and notices published in regional newspapers. Staff have identified potential venues for in-person meetings and are in the process of setting up the webpage.

Staff have also developed a preliminary contact list of stakeholders who may be interested in providing input. These include state and regional organizations involved in tourism, realty, and economic development; county, town, and plantation officials; local associations (homeowners, lake, etc.); chambers of commerce; local businesses involved in realty, property management, or lodging; and property owners in the service area in general. Initial notification about this process will be made to these stakeholders directly where possible and to the public more generally through the website and GovDelivery system.

Staff plan to report the findings of this information gathering process at the August Commission meeting, following all of the planned community meetings.