**INTRODUCTION**

The citizens of Poland adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 1991, made minor amendments in 2000 and adopted a revised inventory and analysis section in 2007. Later, in 2021, the Comprehensive Plan Committee again updated the plan. This updated plan presents information on community trends and characteristics over the past 10 years and what is expected to occur over the next 10 years.

Public input was sought and used to guide the update of the Comprehensive Plan pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. §4324. Due to the COVID pandemic, in person public input was constrained. Still, the Comprehensive Plan Committee sought and obtained public input through two online surveys which had a high response rate, two virtual public input sessions, and finally, once COVID restrictions had eased, an in person public input session. The data collected during all of these events was used to shape the vision and goals, strategies, and policies sections of the updated plan.

The Comprehensive Plan contains two main components; inventory and analysis, and goals, policies and strategies. These two components have been merged in contrast to the previous plan where they were in two separate and distinct sections. The rationale for this change was to have the data contained in the inventory and analysis section nearby to the goals, policies and strategies so that data and other information could be more easily viewed as a whole.

The Comprehensive Plan assigns responsibility for the various implementation strategies along with a suggested timeline pursuant to 30-A MRSA §4326(3). To more clearly show what goals, policies and strategies have been completed, these are grouped at the end of those sections under the heading “completed prior plan strategies”. It is hoped that showing these completed items will portray progress made to date.

With the requirement to update the Comprehensive Plan only every 10 years there is a need to revisit the various goals, policies and strategies to measure progress, ensure items remain on track, and to make interim adjustments as necessary. Accordingly, the Comprehensive Plan Committee will meet at least every five years (sooner if conditions warrant) to review and update items where conditions have changed and to specifically review the degree to which future land use plan strategies have been implemented; percent of municipal growth-related capital investments in growth areas; location and amount of new development in relation to community’s designated growth areas and rural areas; and the amount of critical natural resource, critical rural, and critical waterfront areas protected through acquisition, easements, or other measures.

The Poland Comprehensive Plan Update Committee has thoroughly considered each one of the goals, policies and strategies and assessed its implications during the Comprehensive Plan update. In addition, it relied heavily on what the citizens of Poland told the committee through online surveys, and virtual and in person public input sessions held in the summer and fall of 2020 and spring and summer of 2021. It is the position of the committee that the following presents a realistic direction for Poland over the next 10 years.