

**Shore Land Zoning Ordinance Proposed Changes
Town of Portage Lake
Public Hearing
Wednesday January 17, 2018**

Hearing called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Selectboard Chairman David Pierce.

There were 9 Portage Lake members of the public in attendance.

The purpose of this public hearing is to allow the citizens of Portage Lake the opportunity to comment on proposed adoption of an updated Shore Land Zoning Ordinance to the 2015 Maine Department of Environmental Protection Guidelines.

The meeting was handed over to Code Enforcement Officer Maggie Pierce, who explains the proposed changes. The update removes the 30% volume for expansions, it will be based on square footage and existing decks, for example, won't count against the homeowner for expansion. She says for this Town, it will enable smaller to expand. The other change is the clearing requirements for non-timber harvest, a section for re-vegetation and hazard trees have been added. The Code Enforcement Officer or a licensed forester will be able to determine if the tree is hazardous or not. Maggie explains the language has changed to make it more land-owner friendly. People who have complete non-conforming lots will be able to have an accessory structure without penalty, like a storage building. Maggie explains the Planning Board got a lot of feedback from the community, and found that the State changes were in line with what the residents were asking and thought it would be easier to adopt the State plan. Maggie believes the State changes will be a benefit for everyone along the shore-line.

These changes will be presented to the Town at the Town Meeting for vote in the Warrant articles.

Hearing adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Corrine Routhier