



Colleen Hendricks, summer planning intern, ended up at Lincoln County and the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission when an earlier opportunity fell through --- and how lucky we are!

Colleen is part of the 2019 Maine Government Summer Internship Program, sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. She grew up in Wiscasset and is about to begin her last semester at UMaine-Machias.

Her travels through the world of county planning this summer have been interesting and wide-ranging. Colleen has taken on a variety of projects under the guidance of Mary Ellen Barnes, director of LCRPC (LCRPC is the Planning Department for Lincoln County).

Colleen has worked on the LCRPC website updating information, stories, and images and making the FaceBook page more active and relevant to the RPC audience. She learned about the LCRPC's Brownfield Assessment Program and visited a commercial site in Wiscasset which is benefitting from these EPA hazardous waste assessment funds. Colleen has also put a few miles on her car gathering scenic and business-related images from around the County to showcase and share her experiences in Lincoln County.

She helped to update and distribute the County's Recycling Department program information with a new recycling flyer and informative press release for the towns of Alna, Wiscasset and Westport Island.

In support of the County's Emergency Management Agency, Colleen has been using her skills in research and databases to input school management contact information on all the County's public and private schools. LCEMA wants to maintain current contact information to communicate emergency and other and important information to the schools.

She is currently part of a public bike/ped planning process in the Town of Bristol and is putting her GIS skills and coursework to use in creating multiple map layers, with road, bike use, origin/destination, and other data. The increasing use of electric vehicles and the need for charging stations is another important opportunity that Colleen has been following.

As part of her internship goal to learn about County and town government, Colleen attended a County Commissioner's meeting and Damariscotta's Annual Town Meeting and toured through the 1761 Pownalborough Court House in Dresden and the County's current Superior and District Courts in Wiscasset.

For the County, this was our first internship opportunity in quite a while; for Colleen, she matched her skills and interests with a position in her hometown! Her experiences seeing County and town government directly working on behalf of our citizens, and learning about different environmental careers will hopefully be useful in helping Colleen determine a path for her future!