Aroostook CGPZ Steering Committee – Small Business Development Topic Questionnaire

Please take a few minutes to fill out the following questionnaire about small business development in the UT or Plantations. Feel free to use the back page, or additional sheets of paper, if you need more space.

1. What is your vision for small business development in the UT or Plantations?

2. Which type of small business should be encouraged in the UT or Plantations?

3. What are some potential opportunities and impacts that could be expected from the development of these small businesses, both as they are established and as they continue to grow & expand?

    a. Put yourself in the shoes of a small business owner who wants to expand or grow their business (choose an example from your answer to question one). What are the advantages/opportunities of being able to do so without having to move to a different location where the zoning allows that use?

    b. Put yourself in the shoes of a person who lives near a small home-based business as it expands or grows. What kind of impacts would you experience*? Examples could include but not be limited to: noise, lighting, traffic, visual, etc.*

4. Should we consider different standards for an existing home occupation/small business expansion compared to the siting and development of a completely new small business?

5. In your opinion, when should an expansion of a home occupation be considered a commercial operation requiring a change in zones? What are some of the factors that we should be using to determine when it is appropriate for a home occupation to be in a different zone? *For example, one factor might be additional business-related traffic. When this additional traffic starts to negatively affect other uses, such as residential-related travel, then it may be time to change zones.*

6. How would the location of small businesses affect the potential opportunities and impacts noted above? What considerations should be made about the appropriateness of location (including but not limited to: population centers, employment hubs, public infrastructure, residential development, natural resources)? *For example, locating small businesses that generate additional traffic closer to existing development may save the County some money maintaining roads.*