



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

David Bernhardt
COMMISSIONER

January 27, 2017

Jonathan Duke, Town Administrator
Town of Newcastle
P.O Box 386
Newcastle, ME 04553

Dear Mr. Duke,

This letter is a follow up to the public meeting in which I attended on December 12, 2016 regarding MaineDOT's Wetland Banking Project and the proposed acquisition of conservation easements at Sherman Marsh. I found the meeting to be very insightful, and appreciated having the opportunity to hear from affected property owners. Much of what we do here at MaineDOT has some effect in one way or another on Maine residents throughout the State. The Department prides itself on working closely with these residents, hearing their concerns, and working through any problems that might arise.

Upon hearing the concerns of Newcastle property owners and after careful consideration, I have decided to forego the acquisition of conservation easements by eminent domain. Each abutting property owner will be receiving a letter from the Department notifying them that we will not be moving forward with the acquisition.

I understand that the use of eminent domain is something to be used sparingly and never taken for granted. I look forward to working with the Town of Newcastle in the future to continue providing a safe, reliable transportation infrastructure.

Should you have any questions you are more than welcome to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Bernhardt
Commissioner

Cc: Brian Foote, Chair, Board of Selectmen
State Senator Dana Dow
State Representative Michael Devin



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