



## *News from the County of Cumberland*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CUMBERLAND COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION HOLDS MEETINGS**

Cumberland County, ME:

The Cumberland County charter Commission has held two meetings during the month of January, one at the Courthouse, and the other at CTN Television Studios. The guest speaker for the January 8 meeting was Knox County Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center, discussing the Knox County Charter process and challenges involved getting that charter adopted. She advised that citizen participation is critical, yet is difficult; as County Government is not a well know commodity and public hearings should be held around the County. She also endorsed the importance of including municipal officials in the charter process.

The meeting of January 15, had guest speaker Representative Herb Adams discussing the history of county government in Maine and its relevance to today. He advised that there are many functions for county government, including regional services, such as assessing, school consolidation, and the like, in addition to the current models of Emergency Management and dispatch services. Adams also mentioned that some functions may be better left to state wide control, such as the recent "jail consolidation" and establishment of the Board of Corrections.

The next Cumberland County Charter Commission meeting will be held on February 5, 2009 in the Peter J. Feeney Conference Room at the Cumberland County Courthouse from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

The charter Commission consists of three appointed and six elected members, and acts as a distinct body from the County. Members of the committee include: Chair, Claude Morgan, vice chair Lisa Villa, Kathleen Babeau, John Eder, Rep. Meredith Strang-Burgess, Neil Jameson, Comm. Richard Feeney, Steve Gorden and David Lunt. The commission is charged with developing a charter to more efficiently run Cumberland County Government, to be completed and put to voters for approval prior to the end of 2010. The committee will be visiting many areas of the county seeking citizen input. Notice will be provided, and information on the commission can be viewed at the county website [Cumberlandcounty.org](http://Cumberlandcounty.org).

For more information, contact Elizabeth Trice at 871-8380, or [Trice@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:Trice@cumberlandcounty.org)

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