



# Grow**Smart** Maine



Welcome to the

## 2022 Grow**Smart** Maine Summit

**October 13 | Bangor | Biddeford | Virtual**

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**Advocacy is Empowerment!**

**Agriculture to Urban: Shaping Change in Your Community**

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# FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

## Welcome and thank you for being here!



This year, GrowSmart Maine worked with a facilitator to distill how we think about and communicate our impact for people and communities across the state with focus on the outcomes. You've seen the graphic posters that reflect this—and we encourage you to share those. Our hope is that they help to convey the importance of smart growth to people in Maine beyond our current audience and those of us who already 'speak the language'. I'm proud of the work that the committee and the Board of Directors put in to reinforce the critical Advocacy, Convening, and Thought Leadership that we do while focusing our efforts and resources to be more effective in all of those areas.

With a broad mission, covering the intersection of many distinct and yet interconnected concerns, we must simultaneously think at a very high level, across sectors and geographies while also diving into the minutia of shaping the very tangible spaces that we inhabit day to day. It takes many people's experience and perspectives to do this effectively. I challenge you all to open your conversations; to ask of others the questions we may know the answers to in our own communities, and to listen with interest. Diverse perspectives will better define the problem, equitable engagement will spur innovative thinking and we can ultimately achieve resilient solutions working together.

I hope you enjoy today's program! Please introduce yourself to new people. I look forward to seeing you all and continuing conversations on how to best prepare Maine's communities for a bright future.

Sincerely, Becca Casey

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Becca Casey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

# 2022 SUMMIT PROGRAM

**8:30-9:00: Registration and Networking.** Beverages and light fare from Pepperell Provisions are available.

**9:00-9:30: Summit Kick-Off** by Board Chair Becca Casey and introduction by Maulian Dana, Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador

## **9:30-11:15: Keynote Presentations & Q&A Discussion**

Rhiannon Hampson will introduce speakers John Piotti and Mike McGinn and moderate a Q&A following the speaker presentations.

## **11:15-11:30: Break**

## **11:30-12:15: Policy Action 2023 Breakout Groups**

## **12:15-1:45: Break and Working Lunch**

Executive Director remarks, election of Board members, Maine Smart Growth Awards announcement, and recognition of retiring Board members

## **1:45-3:00: EXPERIENCE MAINE**

**BIDDEFORD OPTION 1:** Join local advocates, the Heart of Biddeford Main Street Program, and City Officials for a tour of the Pearl Street redevelopment project which included input from various citizen stakeholders on pedestrian traffic, the RiverWalk, and a public park concept

**BIDDEFORD OPTION 2:** Join Bicycle Coalition of Maine for “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: A Walking Conversation about Walking Conditions and Possibilities,” an informal audit around Biddeford’s Mill District to raise consciousness about walkability conditions and needs.

**BANGOR EXPERIENCE:** Advocacy Spotlights: Join fellow attendees for an informal storytelling session about their roles as citizen advocates in their municipalities.

## **3:00-4:30: The Return of The Reception!**

We’ve missed gathering with our constituents for the past two years. This year, we mingle again! Enjoy a craft beer and snacks, in Biddeford at Banded Brewing and in Bangor at Bangor Beer Company. Both venues have outdoor patios.



Scan to download  
GrowSmart Maine's  
**2022 Summit Program**  
(PDF)



Photo courtesy of Maine Farmland Trust

## MODERATOR

**Rhiannon Hampson**

**USDA, Rural Development, State Director for Maine**



Rhiannon Hampson brings decades of advocacy and community engagement experience to her role at USDA, Rural Development. Raised in some of the most rural pockets of the state, Rhiannon is a proud graduate of the University of Maine at Machias where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Community Studies. While serving as (ME-01) Congresswoman Chellie Pingree's District Representative for Agricultural and Environmental issues, Rhiannon had the opportunity to deepen her knowledge of Maine's heritage industries, and the ways in which USDA uplifts rural communities.

With her partner Gregg, and their two children Ruby and Maden, she owns and operates an organic livestock and dairy farm in Knox County. Rhiannon's experience as a small business owner further informs her understanding of, and dedication to advancing Maine's sustainable economic development.



[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)

**No Farms  
No Food  
No Future**



Photo courtesy of American Farmland Trust

## KEYNOTE

**John Piotti**

**President, American Farmland Trust**



John Piotti has worked at the forefront of sustainable agriculture since the early 1990s, first in Maine, and now nationally. In 2016, he became President of American Farmland Trust (AFT), bringing new energy to this storied organization that launched the conservation agriculture movement.

Under John's leadership, AFT has engaged in the most comprehensive study of American land use ever conducted, helped secure billions of dollars in federal funding to protect farmland and promote climate-smart agriculture, and launched new initiatives that advance regenerative farming practices and support next generation farmers. Prior to joining

AFT, John served as President of Maine Farmland Trust, which during his tenure became recognized as one of the most innovative and impactful farm-support groups in the nation.

John has also served in the Maine State Legislature, where he chaired the Agriculture Committee and was later elected House Majority Leader. In 2013, John was named to Maine Magazine's inaugural list of one of the 50 people who have done the most for the state. In 2005, he received a prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship, which he used to study agricultural policy in Europe. John holds three degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: in engineering, public policy, and systems management.



[farmland.org](http://farmland.org)



Photo courtesy of America Walks

## KEYNOTE

**Mike McGinn**

**Executive Director, America Walks**



Mike McGinn got his start in local politics as a neighborhood activist pushing for walkability. From there he founded a non-profit focused on sustainable and equitable growth, and then became mayor of Seattle. He has always worked to add new voices to City decision-making and has gained deep insights into how influence is gained and wielded to make change.

Just before joining America Walks, Mike worked to help Feet First, Washington State's walking advocacy organization, expand their sphere of influence across Washington state. He has worked on numerous public education, legislative, ballot measure and election campaigns—which has given him an abiding faith in the power of organizing and volunteers to create change. His many years of advocating for sustainable cities and environmental justice give him perspective to expand America Walks partnerships.



[americawalks.org](http://americawalks.org)

# POLICY ACTION BREAKOUT GROUPS

GrowSmart's Summit's theme is "*Advocacy is Empowerment: Agricultural to Urban: Shaping Change in Your Community.*" This is your chance, as a citizen or municipal advocate, to lend your voice to shaping our eight Policy Actions. During the Policy Action segment of the Summit, you're invited to join one of the following four breakout rooms to participate in the discussion.

## BREAKOUT ROOM 1

**Policy Action #1:** Growth happens in the right places with government coordination at all levels.

**Policy Action #7:** Downtowns AND rural areas are strengthened with enhanced fiscal policies.

## BREAKOUT ROOM 2

**Policy Action #2:** Offer multi-modal choices across Maine by reworking transportation funding.

**Policy Action #3:** It's safe and easy to use alternative transportation with Complete Streets.

## BREAKOUT ROOM 3

**Policy Action #4:** A more flexible planning framework would accommodate changes in best practices.

**Policy Action #6:** Development with revised subdivision rules is encouraged in the right places.

## BREAKOUT ROOM 4

**Policy Action #5:** Historic buildings bring value across Maine with a stronger historic tax credit.

**Policy Action #8:** State climate goals are advanced by encouraging carbon-neutral buildings.

## SAVE THE DATE! POST-SUMMIT FORUM

**NOV 8, ELECTION DAY 1-3 pm: Policy Action 2023 Roundup**

Mark your calendars, and spend Election Day afternoon with the Policy Action 2023 working groups, 1:00-3:00 pm for a virtual discussion and updates on legislative proposals. This collaborative approach to creating and supporting legislation relies on building a broad base of support around proposals that are sound fiscally and environmentally, with positive climate and community outcomes. We hope you'll continue to be part of this process, and what better day to talk good policy than Election Day!

GrowSmart Maine's 2022 Summit is Also Supported by



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[www.growsmartmaine.org](http://www.growsmartmaine.org)

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