

**Special Town Meeting
Cooper, Maine**

To: Citizens of the Town of Cooper in the County of Washington, State of Maine
Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Cooper, in said County, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Cooper Community Center in said town on Saturday, the fifteenth (15th) of April, AD 2023 at 12:00 Noon.

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator to preside at the meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town of Cooper will authorize the Cooper Planning Board the authority to set penalties for building code violations. The Planning Board recommends \$1,000 fine per violation plus costs to enforce. Penalties can be assigned to property owners and or building contractors. Fines can be retroactive for pending and unresolved issues.

Title 30-A, M.R.S. 4452 (3) authorizes a municipal official such as a code enforcement officer or local plumbing inspector, who is designated by ordinance or law with the responsibility to enforce a particular law or ordinance listed in the statute, to enter property, issue summons and to represent the municipality in court when authorized to do so by municipal officers, to enforce alleged violations of ordinances they are authorized to enforce. This statute also authorizes a penalty of up to \$2,500 per day for first time violators and up to \$25,000 where a person has been convicted of the same violation within the past two years. According to this statute, a court must order the violator to pay the municipality's court costs and attorney's fees if the town or city wins. In addition to these penalties and costs, the court also could order the violator to pay for necessary remedial work (i.e., removing a building, reseeding a forest). Title 38 MRS 444 states that violations of shoreland zoning ordinances are penalized according to 30-A MRS 4452.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town of Cooper will adopt and/or amend the proposed Cooper Town Beach Ordinance that establishes:


- The purpose of the ordinance
- The appointed office of Beach Steward and the Steward's powers and responsibilities

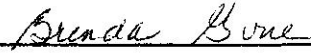
- Cooper residents, landowners and their accompanied guests as authorized users
- Enforcement, penalties and effective date

(The proposed ordinance is available on the website and as a handout at the special town meeting)

Motion to adjourn:

Respectfully submitted,
Given under our hands this 2nd day of April, 2023

Dan Ackley 

Brenda Gove 

Jon Reisman 

A TRUE COPY
ATTEST: 