



City of Auburn, Maine

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PUBLIC MEETING FOR FINAL DESIGN OF NEW AUBURN VILLAGE CENTER

AUBURN, ME. –Auburn's Department of Economic and Community Development has announced that a public meeting will be held at Walton Elementary School on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 6:00 PM to present the final design for the New Auburn Village Center Plan. The public is encouraged to attend and offer its comments, concerns and ideas that can be used on the final plan. City Planner Doug Greene is hoping for a good turnout and is excited about finalizing the overall plan design. Some of the remaining issues to be resolved at the meeting are: where to locate the historic St. Louis Bells, an ADA accessible access directly to the Androscoggin River and the final trail location in the planned Greenway.

The design for the New Auburn Village Center Plan has been developed over the last six years, through the earlier planning efforts of the 2010 New Auburn Master Plan and the 2014 New Auburn Village Center Plan, which resulted in a new street and greenway concept plan that was endorsed by a Plan Committee. Now with the help of consultants Greg Bakos of VHB Engineers and Sam Coplon of Landscape Architects, the final design is close to completion, and this third public meeting will offer an opportunity for citizens to guide the final design. Once the final design is completed, the consultants will create the final construction plans that can go out to bid.

"The City was fortunate to receive a Northern Borders Regional Commission Grant for close to \$250,000, and with the city's matching funds, construction can start in 2017," City Planner, Doug Greene said. In addition to the 2017 construction work, engineering professionals will be hired early in 2017 to evaluate and design traffic calming measures that would turn the busy streets surrounding the project area into a more pedestrian-friendly setting. Strong concerns were raised at previous public meetings about the high volumes of traffic, speeding cars and dangerous intersections. The improvements to be addressed on Main Street, Mill Street and Broad Street will rely on the input of New Auburn businesses and residents. "There will need to be a balancing act of creating a safe pedestrian environment where vehicles can still move through the area in a reasonable and moderate pace," said Mr. Greene.

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