

Notes from Policy Committee meeting 4/10/2013

Meeting attendees: IPS Team members: Kat Beaudoin, Patty Castonguay, Beth DellaValle, Jim Cassida; MEARNG representatives, John Blais and Lane Wiggin; City of Auburn, Eric Cousens, Carol Segal, Frank Piffath, Kevin Norcross, Steve Bouchard, Ann Martel,, Dana Little, Phil Savignano, Jeff Benson and Gary Haskell

Absent: Mary LaFontaine

Opened with acceptance of minutes from last meeting. Kat referred to email package noting letter from the Oxford County Gem and Mineral Club. Jim Cassida did a presentation of resource data and Beth discussed the composite constraints map.

The group broke out into two groups and discussed the draft recommendations (draft v.2r). The following notes are a summary of the points made.

Watch out for landfill on Minot Avenue – (tailings fill from mining operation)

In the subdivision on Garfield, the middle lot is owned by Dana Little and has a trail across it connecting to the park; other lots in the subdivision may be available for purchase. Also Dana would be open to building a parking lot there.

Eric would like to know if there could be money left in the budget to draft the easement for a new multipurpose trail south of the installation on Army land if that were one of the preferred options.

The city has a Restrictive Fire Arms Discharge Map; we should probably have it for background information.

Consider a recommendation for changing the name of Mine Road to deter people from accessing there

John Blais to send numbers of training use corresponding to when the site had active baffled range to show how much increase can be expected in the future.

Walking the trails from Small Road to the quarries is roughly the same as walking to the quarries from the current access at Mount Apatite Road.

Consider another access point on Minot at/near an Industrial use; perhaps purchase by city to include in land swap discussions.

Remove strategy dealing with transit; it's in the comprehensive plan and removing here has no effect on that policy.

Friends if there is to be one should include young people; it is ad hoc today and some felt it should stay that way. Another view point was that it could assist the snowmobile club and that maybe the bike club that is being considered could be added to mix.

Add bike parking at various access points.

If gate (on Mount Apatite Road) is moved will block off some parking currently used by ball field users during high intensity use; consider developing additional ball park parking.

Cross walks and sidewalks would be great but most come down Stevens Mills Road so may not need sidewalks if shoulders are widened.

Eric will talk with ATRC and City Engineering staff to ascertain whether the suggested relocation of the Guard main entrance is workable from traffic engineering perspective (i.e. site distance and turning radius for tractor trailers). We need to do this before the Guard will evaluate from an anti-terrorism perspective

Re recommendation #8 – ‘hold to monitor/manage’

Re recommendation #9 – also need trail maps

Re recommendation #10 – good opportunities but not large area – maybe another dozen spaces; like option for Guard, visible, need new/expanded trails, prefer this over Small Road access, economic development opportunity/branding. Estimate amount of land /parking that could be accommodated. Good slope down to lot – difficult heading back to road. Economic opportunity for bikes and along Minot road/commercial development/bike shop canteen combo

Hatch Road – very steep for miners; regular blasting occurs nearby now (Mt. Apatite Park?); how big a parking area could actually be developed; that trail access is right on a sharp corner

Mine Road access – not very optimistic about it being viable.

Mountain bikes – use hiking trails but if enthusiastic bikers prefer, they should have their own trails; single track mountain biking; otherwise use main access thru MEARNNG installation; some bikes park at Small Road

Re recommendation #21 – add city web site and Maine Snowmobile Association

Re 22, who pays for emergency response; kids still swimming and diving; no idea how deep quarries are and what is submerged there...danger; a lot of abandoned barbed wire fences

Re 23 – ALT sign system is pretty comprehensive

Re 26 – --modify: on city roads to get folks to the access points we want them to use

Re 27 – and others mentioned earlier

Nice to have map done by firm that does recreational signage

Re ball fields relocations – 100s of little decision – keep LL access; pros = already there; cons = ratio of land swap

Re 30 – cons – overall cost, location and multitudes of details to work out; pros – advantage to starting from scratch but would like guarantee won't move again.

Re 32 – consider acquisition along Minot Avenue for potential new access and or land swap

Re 34 – is the guard a ‘friend’; maybe create thru recreation dept or land trust; explore jointly beneficial economic development along Minot with eye to generating \$, especially TIFs; sno-gypsies are like friends but their numbers are small and need good organizational skills

Re 35 – con – manage system; some families want to just poke around; should be allowed to dig in dump piles; designate a few small areas where can dig; consider removing trees from slag piles;

Re 36 – if do this, charge \$50 for first couple weekends after disturbing earth

Re military overlay zone – create additional/more buffers along Garfield Road – buffers potential for land swap....where?

Re 39 – bi- annually makes more sense than quarterly

Re 44 – support creating implementation committee

Re 45 – Land for Maine’s future; add potential offer for labor from Guard

New category – economic development opportunities: new access Minot/business development partnership; LMF focusing on economic value.....Note: this may be tough to sell to MEARNG since a number of strategies already challenged because they have not direct benefit to Guard....guard suggests city deal with those separately

Margaret Murphy home, city should acquire and make part of park access

Someone drove truck from Minot into snowmobile trail and to quarries; got stuck

Create parking at south eastern most corner of MEARNG land as part of land swap/trail head access...but know that trail is often wet

Existing trails exist around ball fields to access snow mobile trails

Road that parallels Garfield (?) (circle at possible new access) possible parking for new access road

If move gate will lose 20-30 parking spaces that are normally filled on weekends

Small road – enhance site of former building for parking; avoid going down over hill to club house

Add jogging trail at north corner Mt. Apatite Road on triangular shaped land backed up by little league field

Ball fields are good neighborhood asset

There will be noise impacts to neighborhood if the guard uses the ball fields area

There is a berm on MEARNG land where a potential new access could go; this was to prevent vehicles from driving in from that area to access park

Consider placing stone barrier at edge of quarries to make safer

Make sure trails loop around and are clearly marked

City should acquire rights over trail access from Garfield nearest Perkins Ridge intersection

Fix map to show that Hatch is west of Garfield and Perkins Ridge is east

Consider small parking on Carol Segal land; Carol proposes land swap with City; Carol wants "finger" and will give away land at back of her lot. This land abuts land that is not deed restricted to recreational use and is priority II land swap area for guard (first priority is leased land)

Only way to make Mine road access safer is to cut hill down or relocate intersection further south on Wright land.