

CITY OF AUBURN MAINE JOINT LAND USE STUDY (JLUS) FOR
Area Surrounding
Maine Army National Guard Training Facility & Mount Apatite Park
www.auburnmaine.gov/Pages/Government/Auburn-Maine-Joint-Land-Use-Study

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FEBRUARY 15, 2014

Memo To: Members of the JLUS Policy Committee

From:  Eric Cousens, Director of Planning and Permitting, City of Auburn

Policy Committee Members

Jeff Benson – Auburn Suburban Little League
Kevin Norcross – Andy Valley Sno Gypsies
Dana Little – Androscoggin Land Trust
Michael Peters – Mac’s Grill
Carol Segal – Cookin’ Carol / Mt. Apatite Farm
Phil Savignano – Auburn Recreation Advisory Committee
Frank Piffath – Mine Road Resident
Ann Martel – Cedarwood Road Resident
Steve Bouchard – Pond Crest Lane Resident
Eric Cousens – City Planning & Permitting
Mary Lafontaine – Ward 3 Council
John Blais - MEARNG

I am pleased to report that the City has decided to complete the JLUS process. Please mark your calendars for March 26, 2014, 4 p.m.! At this 3 hour meeting, we will refresh our memories since August 2013 when we last met and review several scenarios and their associated recommendations and relative costs. The goal will be to ratify the scenarios and move recommendations forward to the Planning Board. A light meal will be served.

As you may recall, the Maine Army National Guard (MEARNG) requested that we suspend completion of the process until the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) could complete its appraisal of the ball fields and the swath of land along the southern boundary where the main access trail was being considered for relocation. The MEARNG was not in a position to say how soon the ACOE could complete its work but it was clear that it could not begin before October 1, 2013 when the new federal fiscal year began. And as we all know, the federal government shut down in early October did not permit any activity to occur for most of October.

In November, Maine voters passed a referendum authorizing significant funding for the MEARNG. “The measure authorized the issuance of a \$14,000,000 bond for the stated purposes of maintaining, repairing, improving and modernizing energy efficiency for Maine Army National Guard readiness centers and support facilities and for purchasing land for military training.¹” The referendum passed with 57% of vote. There have been rumors that a follow up funding referendum will be on next year’s ballot. We are in hopes that MEARNG will report whether the Auburn facility will be impacted by this or related measures.

Meanwhile, the City waited until late January 2014 to allow for the MEARNG to report on the ACOE’s progress; as of that date, it remained unclear when the ACOE would complete the appraisals. As such, the City has decided to resume work on the study. Kat Beaudoin and her team will provide a follow up to this memo about 2 weeks before the March 26th meeting. Meanwhile do not hesitate to contact her at katb@gwi.net or at 207-446-8099 if you have any questions.

¹ [http://ballotpedia.org/Maine_Army_National_Guard_Readiness_Center_Bond,_Question_1_\(2013\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Maine_Army_National_Guard_Readiness_Center_Bond,_Question_1_(2013))