



**Council Economic and Community Development Committee
April 21st, 2016 Agenda Summary**

Agenda #3C

Subject

Planning Board CIP Recommendations and Comments (10 Minutes)

Summary-The City Charter requires the Planning Board to make recommendation to the City Council on this year’s proposed 2016-17 CIP budget. The Planning Board discussed the CIP, made recommendations and added a number of suggestions for other Planning and Economic Development ideas. The attached memo contains these recommendations and ideas.

Recommendation(s)- The Planning Board recommends the City Council include funding for the Agriculture Study and the Great Falls Plaza infrastructure design and construction in next year’s 2017-18 CIP budget. The staff supports the Planning Board’s ideas 1, 2 (Property inventory and Auburn marketing effort) and 4 (Joint meeting with Lewiston Planning Board. The other ideas are worthwhile but need more careful consideration before initiating.

Requested Action- Consider funding the Planning Board’s CIP recommendations in next year’s 2017-18 CIP budget. Support ideas 1 and 2 if presented to the City Council in the future. Continue following the Planning Board’s activities and ideas.

Action Taken

GB JP RS



City of Auburn, Maine

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To: Community and Economic Development Committee Members

From: Douglas M. Greene, AICP, RLA; City Planner

Date: April 19, 2016

RE: Planning Board Annual 2016-17 CIP Budget

The Auburn Planning Board reviewed and discussed the 2016-17 CIP Budget at their April 12th meeting. Below are the Planning Board's recommendations for the proposed CIP and some additional comments and ideas on Planning and Economic Development activity.

2016-17 CIP Budget Recommendations-

1. The Planning Board requests the City Council provide the \$40,000 line item for the Agricultural District Study and urges the Council to fully fund this effort. The Planning Board is very concerned that the 20,000 acre Agriculture and Resource Protection Zone regulations does not promote new farms and agriculture but instead prevents development. The 50% rule needs to be reconsidered. A carefully made study should evaluate the current land uses and regulations to determine the best areas either to protect for agriculture or to possibly modify for potential development.
2. The Planning Board would like the CIP for 2016-17 or the following year's CIP to include funding to construct the proposed Riverway Street in New Auburn and for the planning, engineering, design and construction of the future streets and urban design in the Great Falls Plaza area.

Other Planning and Economic Development Ideas-

1. Create a property inventory of developable land that tracks the current status such as vacant, abandoned, underutilized land or buildings as well as infrastructure, open space for future park land.
2. Promote and market Auburn to new residents based on our low cost of housing and recreational opportunities.
3. Develop a plan for future growth of Central Maine Community College.
4. Consider a housing plan that will adapt to changes in family size and aging populations based on 2010 Census demographics. There is an increasing need for housing with smaller households with no children and for our aging population. Look for barriers to achieving this in our Zoning Ordinance.
4. Consider bringing back annual joint meetings with the Lewiston Planning Board.
5. Consider new planning studies for the Mall area (changing trends in retail) and the Minot Avenue corridor, both lower and outer.
6. Promote the redevelopment of the Great Falls Art Center.
7. Carefully consider Lake Auburn's recreation and development potential.