

**DRAFT**  
**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**City of Auburn JLUS**  
For Area Surrounding  
Mount Apatite Recreation Area &  
Maine Army National Guard Training Facility  
**Held at AUBURN HALL**  
**On March 26, 2014**  
**from 4-6:30 p.m.**

**Introductions:**

Kat Beaudoin, IPS Project Team manager opened the meeting with overview of where we are now. IPS Project Team members included: Beth Della Valle and Patty Castonguay. Policy Committee members present included: John Blais of MEARNG, Eric Cousens, City of Auburn, Frank Piffath, a resident on Mine Road, Dana Little representing Taylor Pond Association and the Androscoggin Land Trust, Ann Martel, resident of Cedarwood Road, Stephen Bouchard, resident of Pond Crest Lane, Jeff Benson representing Auburn Suburban Little League and John Chandler. Absent were Policy Committee members: Kevin Norcross representing the Andy Valley Sno Gypsies, Phil Savignano representing Auburn Recreation Advisory Committee, Carol Segal representing Mount Apatite Farm, Mary LaFontaine, representing Ward 3 Council, and Mike Peters representing Mac's Grill. Also in attendance was John Chandler, a member of the Rifle Club.

**Overview:**

Beth went over the list of Strategies which was color coded (to indicate who is responsible for each) by option number. Items discussed: Preliminary cost estimates associated with Option 1 will range from \$124,000.00 to \$139,000.00 (does not include the cost of the short term lease). The costs associated with Options 2 and 3 ranges from 15 million through 19 million and does not include the cost of land acquisitions.

Frank suggested we identify which strategies in Options 2 and 3 can be implemented while waiting for the ratio for the land swap from the Army Corp.

John suggested the option of a short term lease for the ball fields until the land swap is finalized. We added an additional strategy to note that a short term (5 yr) lease needs to be drafted, City to pay for the costs (\$3,000 to \$10,000). Where choices in which strategy to pursue were required, the Policy Committee rejected strategies 2, 5 and 6 (ruled out by the Military because of cost), and 20.

The Policy Committee decided that its Preferred Option is Option 2, a land swap - and that the ratio, itself, is less relevant than restrictions on use of land transferred to Military; if there are no restrictions on public use of the trails that are Military property for recreational purposes, then the Policy Committee is comfortable not to determine an acceptable ratio. If the Military proposes to restrict how the ballfield parcel is to be used or whether trails on the park lands transferred to the Military may be used (by license), the Policy Committee says its recommendation to the City Council is limited to a land swap ratio to 1:1. The sentiment of the Committee is that it wants the ballfields, recreational value, and safety, with less concern for established ratio.

The Policy Committee confirmed that if the City acquired the Rifle Club's rental property, it could contribute that land to the land swap. John Chandler indicated the Rifle Club would only be willing to give up its property if it could be swapped for land elsewhere that would be useful to the Club.

Kat summarized next steps:

- One more Policy Committee meeting to review revised Final Report, memo describing changes from the draft report, and to vote to pass its recommendation and the report onto the City Council.
- Press release advertising availability of Final Report and two public hearings.
- Public Hearing with the Planning Board
- Public Hearing with the City Council

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on May 14, at Auburn Hall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.