

**Community Guided Planning and Zoning (CGPZ) Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2014
County of Aroostook Office**

Attendees: Mark Draper, Cheryl St. Peter, Bill Patterson, Paul Bernier, Ned Berce, Sarah Medina, Dave Cambridge, and Jim Nadeau

Others present: Nick Livesay, Jamie Francomano, Billie MacLean, Jon Gulliver, and Jay Kamm,

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting opened at 9:10 with Mark Draper, Chair, offering a welcome and introductions.

Minutes of May 21, 2014 meeting

Meeting minutes of the May 21st were approved by consensus.

Guest Speaker- Jon Gulliver- NMDC Investor and Community Relations

Jon Gulliver presented an overview of tourism in Aroostook County. He reported Aroostook County Tourism (ACT) recently paid for a tourism impact study from dpa consultants. The study surveyed visitors from New England and Canada and indicated that, in 2013, the estimated visitation to Aroostook County exceeded one million visitors who spent just under \$135 million. Most were day visitors (841,627) who may have been in the County for other business and extended their stay for an extra period of time. Retail sales made up approximately 28% of the spending in the region followed by lodging at 25%. The report indicated that tourism supported 2,135 jobs with over \$40 million in total earnings.

Visitors to the region expect amenities at sporting camps and motels/hotels. Most are seeking a “wilderness” type experience but want lodging that has internet access, cell phone coverage, and other means to remain in communication with their everyday life. These amenities may not be fully available in the North Maine Woods or other areas of the County at this time.

Jon indicated that snowmobiling visits seems to have leveled off in recent years but that ATVing is growing in popularity. This may be more indicative of a changing economy than visitor experience as the region has many of the best snowmobile trails in the state. Jon acknowledged that ATVing brings its own set of challenges and that many landowners are concerned with this activity. Jon also indicated that ACT is in the process of re-emphasizing hunting and fishing in the region. He felt that the new lodging and sporting camp regulations would be helpful in that effort.

There was considerable discussion concerning ATV trails, lodging, and the outdoor experience. Jay will provide copies of the most recent snowmobile and ATV maps at the next meeting.

Permit Activity Review

Jay presented a development maps for Connor, Winterville and Cary Plantation showing where development has occurred since 2000. There was no set development pattern (around the lake, on a transportation corridor, etc) and development generally was spread out through each community. A copy of those maps will be placed on the website.

Guest Speakers

Ned Berce asked for a presentation from the agricultural sector. Jay will ask Tim Hobbs, Maine Potato Board to attend. The meeting may need to be moved as it falls at the same time as the Potato Blossom Festival.

The Committee also asked for a real estate presentation from the region. They asked to attempt to find a realtor from the southern Aroostook region.

Process to Date

Mark asked the committee to think about the process to date and to keep the CGPZ land Use Planning products sheets available for review. The new timeline seems to be working and a few ideas for a product are arising. A future agenda item should be to revisit this handout.

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Jay Kamm
Senior Planner