

**Winthrop Comprehensive Planning Process
Monday, December 14 7:00 p.m.**

Agenda

- **Veterans' Monument**
- **Mill Stream – proposed walking path**
- **Public Restrooms in the downtown**
- **Patrice's list of General Agreements thus far**
- **How we would like to see information presented in the draft Plan**
- **Transportation priorities**

Board Attendance:

Patrice Putman

Andy Wess

Sarah Fuller

John Callinah

Harold Burnett

Kristen Bartlett

Jack Kaiser

Jim Norris

John Carpenter

Town Support:

Chris Huck, KVCOG
Cornell Knight, Town Manager

Community Members:

Russ Hazzard
Roger Lajeuness
Roger Guerette
Don Chase
Maxine Pray
Tom Hise
Others, whose names I unfortunately missed.

Don Chase and Roger Guerette presented their recommendations to put a monument on Norcross Point. The path will be relocated about 5 feet and will be paved with memorial stones with veterans' names carved into them. There would be a private fund to pay for the project; public funds would not be used. Walk way is now 4 feet wide, suggest a 5 feet wide walk. Any veteran can be part of the pathway. Those who died or MIAs will be on the back of the monument. May take a few years to pay for it.

Andy Wess noted that the Monument meets the definition of a structure. Need to make an exception in ordinance for public property. In a shore land zone would need to make an exception. Town Council would need to make a change.

Does it fit our concept of what we have been talking about for the Norcross Point? If there is going to be a lot of recreational activities at Norcross Point, will this interfere with that or will the recreation interfere with the solemnity of the monument? Don and Roger felt that most of the activity is in the center of the point so this would not interfere. It is not the intention to limit activities at the point. "The vets would be proud to have many family activities happening there." We continue to want Norcross Point to be used for fun, public recreation, concerts, and lively activities. Roger and Don said that that is also the intention of the monument sponsors. Concerns for vandalism were voiced. Viet Nam vet expressed no need for this to be a solemn place.

A place by the school may be just as good but is a more hurried, drive-by place. Norcross is more a place to stroll. Placing public monument by public buildings has an advantage. Proximity to Legion is a benefit to the Norcross area.

Motion: Move to approve Norcross Point as a place for the Monument so long as it does not interfere with other anticipated uses.

Discussion about whether this is appropriate for us to move. This is a veteran's monument not a war monument.

It is not the intention of those proposing the monument to interfere with future activities in any way. After much procedural discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Sarah and others will attend the Town Council meeting and tell them of our discussions here.

Mill Stream: Can we get a walk along the Mill Stream? The Town has applied for a couple of grants from Main St to Union St. We could never get agreement from those beyond Union St. We applied for grants twice. A board walk over the water was suggested. There will be obstacles. A simple gravel walking trail would be suggested so the trail would not need to be over the water. There is clear agreement that we want to protect the water. Altering the environment is going down the wrong path. There was a suggestion that a park near the stream would be more acceptable. We do not want a significant environmental impact.

Some consider it a high priority, some a low priority. Harold would rather have us access to waterfall, rushing water. John Calahan would like a small park near the waterfall. Some felt we should have a place to eat nearby. Some felt a Boardwalk is going overboard; that a gravel path is more doable. There was general agreement that the Mill Stream trail should be part of a system, not a stand alone project. Pricilla would like to have a portage across the Main St. to get eventually to Annabessacook Lake. Goal is a small pleasant place to gather, walk, and meet. It was noted that there was a history of landowners' concern with water level. Ideally, we would like to connect the downtown to the lakes which was part of the original discussion also. The park area, if one were developed, can be a secondary position either near the waterfall or near the Morrill House. Town should look at opportunities to obtain easements or purchase property along the mill stream.

Public Restrooms: Porta potties are working well down for 6 weeks by the beach and May to October at Norcross Point. Cleaned twice a week. Vandalism that happened at Norcross Point does not seem to be a problem with the Porta Potties. Porta potties are working well. Town office bathrooms are clean. Library is public. Town Hall and Police have public bathrooms. Wadleigh's has a bathroom, Subway for customers. New library could have some outside access. May need more signage. Mill could have public bathrooms. Suggest public restrooms with new development. Encourage businesses and churches to have restroom open to public. Suggest concrete slabs for existing porta potties.

Draft Plan: Chris Huck asked how we would like information presented in draft plan? Could have it in chapters with beginning to end (data to analysis to recommendations) or could have a data and analysis chapter with all recommendations together so that we can see how they are linked.

Sarah suggested that we have an executive summary. Annotations would be helpful. Our goal is for this to be used, not shelved. We want it referenced. Harold would like it always visible, make it small for greatest amount of traction. Would like a one page summary. Chris: prioritize recommendations and use those as the executive summary. Recommendations are given context through data and analysis. Recommendations up front, context down below. Chapter approach is helpful to committees that will take over the recommendations.

State has required structure. We are more comprehensive in our approach. They put more emphasis on land use assessment. Please think about what graphs or maps or other things that should be part of this plan.

Transportation: Referring back to the transportation discussion from last fall, please identify high and low priorities. Also, whether any recommendations should be endorsed as recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. MDOT will prioritize based on our recommendations.

Next: January 11: Economic Development outside of the Downtown

- Supporting local business – as local businesses support us

- How to bring in the businesses we want
- Recreational economy
- Transportation