

MDI Tomorrow — Community Design & Land Use
3/17/03 Meeting Notes

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 7, 2003, 8:00 - 9:30 am
Malvern-Belmont Estates, 80 Mt. Desert Street, Bar Harbor.

Attending: Sam Coplon, Jane Disney, Ellen Dohmen, Lauren Donnelly, Michael Good, Carla and Brad Haskell, John Kelly, Ted Koffman, Marla Major, Isabel Mancinelli, Sydney Roberts-Rockefeller, Julia Schloss, Heidi Smallidge, Cuff Train

April 12 Conference Planning

The conference is scheduled for 8:30 – 2:30, with a draft agenda that has Ron Beard opening the day; a speaker or panel of speakers discussing themes that weave in MDI Tomorrow working group issues; workshop/project implementation sessions before and after lunch to discuss 8 “projects” (participants will have an opportunity to choose 2 workshops); and a wrap-up/next steps to close.

The conference will likely provide two workshop opportunities for this issue group: “Designing for Density” (draft title) and “Watershed and Habitat Protection and Education Programs.” The “Designing for Destiny” title was discussed. Other titles suggested include: Communities by Design, Planning How We Grow, Creating Vibrant Communities . . .

The workshops need to show interconnectedness of the projects and issues. For example, “Design for Density” is a Community Housing Group’s project as much as CD & LU’s. We’ll need to bring other elements into the discussion of how to accomplish goals: e.g., Community Housing talking about public and private entities working on “affordability” options (type of construction, funding land components, etc.) and CD & LU working on implementing necessary changes to ordinances to allow the type of development that will preserve vital natural resources, provide community housing options, etc. **Need a list of goals/actions we would like this workshop to further.**

Define a process for workshops to follow:

- Issues
 - speaker (or two) with visuals
- Goals
 - Need to define a proposal (possibly w/case study) to start discussion
- Implementation
 - Obstacles & Actions

Outcomes we would like from the workshops:

- Identify more community members interested in getting involved

- People go away with a better sense of how they can affect change in their communities
- New people signed up to work on projects

“DESIGN FOR DENSITY” WORKSHOP:

Discussion topics identified:

- Congregating Uses
- Density, Infill, Cluster (Open-space)
- What’s Broke, What Isn’t
- Walkability in communities
- Age of LUOs - no significant change in policy since the 1950s
- Working waterfronts
- Encouraging year-round business in downtown areas
- Preserving rural character
- Ability of free-market to operate within ordinances

“Information Packet” suggestions:

- How the process works - an illustration of town governmental process (For zoning changes. Relationship of comprehensive plan to ordinances. Implementing comprehensive plan, etc.)
- Provide names/addresses of all town Select Board/Town Council/Planning Board members.

Need to identify goals, and then actions for people to take to accomplish those goals.

“WATERSHED & HABITAT PROTECTION & EDUC. PROGRAMS” WORKSHOP

Case Study:

- Use Eddy Brook as a model of a fully analyzed watershed, with issues identified. Can tie in other CD & LU issues into watershed protection. Prioritize next watersheds to be surveyed.

Goals/Actions:

- Island-wide watershed (protection?) plan -- developed with planning boards/comprehensive planning commissions
- Island-wide mapping -- Beginning with Habitats
- Year-of-the-Watershed -- Island-wide education project
- Development of a Watershed Institute for a community resource

Define ways for people to get involved.

OTHER GENERAL IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS:

- Plan a plenary session, after the conference, with a buffet of projects for the dedicated.

- Provide an opportunity for a couple representatives from each working/implementation group to meet and review status of projects. Compare notes and goals. Although Steering Committee does this to some extent, it generally has other items on its agenda, as well.
- Continue expanding outreach – churches, Rotary, Chambers, “wherever people gather”
- Create an MDI Tomorrow brochure
- Create a Q & A and glossary of development/planning terms

A smaller planning group will meet to develop the “Design for Density” workshop. The Watershed & Habitat Protection group will work on their workshop, their next meeting is Wednesday, March 19, 9:00 in Southwest Harbor. Other meetings will be announced to the mailing list.

BEGINNING WITH HABITATS PRESENTATION

Marla will schedule this presentation for Thursday, April 17, 7:00 – 8:30. This will capture the energy to “get involved” from the conference, and (we hope) just beats the summer preparation bustle.