

MDI Tomorrow
Community Design & Land Use Working Group
9/9/02 meeting

Next meeting: October 7, 8-9:30 AM,
Malvern-Belmont Estates, 80 Mt. Desert Street, Bar Harbor

Attending: Bill Cohen, Jim Colquhoun, Cheryl Curtis, Jane Disney, Ellen Dohmen, Laureen Donnelly, Bill Haeefe, John Kelly, Ted Koffman, Marla Major, Caroline Pryor, Sydney Rockefeller, Julia Schloss, Heidi Smallidge, Patty Tierney

Committee reviewed the indicator list and data collected, and decided which indicators were most important and realistic to continue to gather information for. Some indicators will be coordinated with other working groups.

It was decided that trying to research records of land transactions (building permits, new subdivisions, variance requests) from 1970 – 1990 was not realistic. We discussed consistency of information, e.g., occupancy permits are available in Bar Harbor, but not Tremont. One suggestion is to do a trend analysis of appropriate indicators, to show percentage of change. Bill Cohen offered to meet with the data gatherers from the four towns to work on an analysis.

Patty Tierney will try to recruit someone to research Southwest Harbor indicators, Marla will follow up with Pat Holder on Mount Desert indicators, Bill Haeefe will research Trenton building permit and subdivision indicators.

After reviewing Jim Colquhoun's report on a "per capita taxation" indicator, it was decided that there were too many variables to make this a very credible or useful indicator. But, elements of municipal costs might be segregated for benchmarks, such as number of police, school employees, municipal and private roads (e.g., miles of roads added between 1990-2000). Private roads will be important to define, because at some point they will likely be taken over by the Towns.

The committee reviewed Heidi Smallidge's report of traffic across the Thompson Island Bridge, provided by the MDOT in Augusta. From the totals provided, she prepared graphs showing: Monthly Traffic 1997-1999; Typical Off-Season Week Day Traffic Patterns; Typical Off-Season Weekend Traffic Patterns; Typical Summer Weekend Traffic Patterns; Typical Summer Weekday Traffic Patterns. Heidi will share this information with the Transportation working group. You can request a copy of the report from Heidi Smallidge or Marla Major.

Jane Disney has requested information about clamflat closures on/surrounding MDI from the Department of Marine Resources, going back as far as possible. Couple of facts: DMR does not close clamflats because of overharvesting; clamflats are reopened when water quality is good, and that requires water testing; 42% of all water testing is done by volunteers. MDI needs a census of marine resources.

Jim Colquhoun has a table from the 2000 census that lists seasonal and year-round houses by town on MDI, which we'll use for benchmarks.

Jane Disney recommended that MDI Tomorrow make it a goal to have all four towns agree, and sign on, to a “charter” that states values and principles for the future of MDI. The charter would outline objectives, for instance, for a sustainable future for the island.

Ted Koffman offered to draft the CD & LU state of the island report, which will also serve as the basis for the OpEd piece, due at the papers October 25.

The community survey will be distributed to the complete MDI Tomorrow mailing list, and everyone is encouraged to complete a survey and interview friends and neighbors. We’re asking for surveys are to be mailed to c/o the Cooperative Extension Service by October 1.