



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: January 20, 2015

Meetings:

On Thursday, January 22, 2015 there will be a City Council Informational Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. An agenda is included in council packets.

The Council 2015 Goal Setting Meeting will take place on Saturday, January 24th in the Arnold/Howard Room (1st floor North Wing) from 7:30am – 3:00pm.

Other Items:

On Thursday evening, we will revisit the ordinance amendment discussion related to downtown overnight parking (particularly in the winter). City staff have been working with the Downtown Alliance and Downtown Manager and Parking District trustees to develop language that will facilitate snow-removal while minimizing the inconvenience to downtown residents. The enclosed additional draft ordinances reflect that effort. In summary, they allow overnight parking (presumably by residents) on the east side of Commercial Street in the winter unless notified to park elsewhere. These last two drafts address any conflicts with the ordinance revision done late last year.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

DAVID M. ROLLINS, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL

JEFFREY M. BILODEAU
ANNA D. BLODGETT
LINDA J. CONTI
DAREK M. GRANT

DALE McCORMICK
CECIL E. MUNSON
PATRICK E. PARADIS

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

INFORMATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015

CITY HALL (COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

6:30 p.m.

A. Items for discussion submitted by the City Council and/or the City Manager:

1. Kennebec River Rail Trail expansion
2. Forest Management Plan
3. Downtown parking ordinance changes
4. Six month financial update

B. Persons wishing to address the City Council who have submitted a formal request in accordance with Section 2-61 of the Code of Ordinances:

C. Open comment period for any persons wishing to address the City Council.

Central Maine Forestry
One Church Road
P O Box 625
Readfield, Maine 04355

(207) – 685 – 9380

Augusta City Council
Augusta Mayor
Leif Dahlin
Conservation Commission
City Center Plaza
16 Cony Street
Augusta, ME 04330-5298

Executive summary of Forest Management and Harvest Planning on City Owned Parcels

Forest Management plans have been prepared for the City owned parcels with woodlands over this past year. Each lot has been evaluated for its resource potential and recommendations for each parcel have been made for site specific goals. The intension of this executive summary is to condense all of the plans into one listing of each parcel, its goal, and a timeline of recommendations all into a very few pages.

It is the goal of this summary to outline the Cities recourses, adopt the plans, and approve the recommendations made for the next ten year planning period. While certainly subject to change, this approval will become the authorization for the Director of Community Service to proceed with the implementation of management activities necessary to meet the goals of each parcel.

A copy of each “Stewardship” standardized forest management plan is in the office of the Director in both printed and electronic format. They are summarized in the following pages.

I hope this provides an overview of what has been accomplished and what is recommended. The plans have much more detail

Respectfully submitted,

John Churchill
Professional Forester
LPF 831

Bicentennial Nature Park

This is a 27 acre parcel on Three Cornered Pond and is the site of a highly used recreation park and swimming area. The Goal is to provide a safe forest environment for the public that is secure and attractive. The forest is in very good shape with healthy well formed trees and no immediate improvement work is needed. The site should be evaluated annually for safety hazards and the recently surveyed back boundary line should be more permanently marked. Consider adding some signage along some of the walking trails.

<i>Schedule of Activities</i>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Time Factor</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Cost / Income</i>
Blaze and Paint the south boundary line	1,000 to 1,300 feet	Within the next two years before the surveyor's ribbon become obscured.		Approximately \$250. Possibly from revenues from Pleasant Hill Timber Sale
Inspect (walk through) area for safety hazards	27 acres	Each Year		unknown
Consider placing some tree identification signs along trails		Anytime		unknown
Consider trail expansion including walks along wetlands		Anytime		unknown

Fontaine and Calumet Parcels

The Fontaine parcel and the Calumet Park Area comprise about 29 acres total and link the Gilbert School to the Park and to Civic Center Drive. The goal for this parcel is to manage the resource for public recreational opportunities. The site is balanced between intensive recreation areas and less intensive areas. This site was not developed because of severe site limitations and probably never will be.

Site stability and erosion prevention is critically important given the steep slopes, highly erodible soils, and the proximity to Bond Brook. The timber resource, though prominent, is a low priority given the size of the site, the access, and site limitations and although there is a manageable volume of timber, no management practices are recommended.

<i>Schedule of Activities</i>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Time Factor</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Cost / Income</i>
Inspect (walk through) area for safety hazards	27 acres	Each Year		unknown
Consider marking ATV Use signs and Firearm Discharge Zone signs as appropriate		Once	Access points and 500-Foot setback mark	unknown
Litter Patrol – It's a shame to see beverage containers, pillows, balloons, and general litter scattered around.	16 acres	Each Year		unknown

Pleasant Hill

Located at the end of the maintained portion of the discontinued Pleasant Hill Road in Augusta Kennebec County, this parcel sets on both sides of the road beyond the gate and includes forestland and wetlands. Once obvious farmland including pastures and woodlands, the lot is now mostly forested other than wetlands and now owned by the City and is maintained as a productive woodlot and an "open to the public" type of Land Share opportunity. The goal for this parcel is to manage the timber and wildlife habitats for public benefit. The lot is open to the public with the concept of "It's ok to use my land as long as you respect it"

This is a good site to manage timber and the process, which started more than ten years ago, should continue. The back section of the lot is recommended for a selection based improvement harvest and there is a boundary little line marking work that needs to be done. There is tire dump on the site that should be cleaned up.

<i>Schedule of Activities</i>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Time Factor</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Cost / Income</i>
Mark east ends of the south and north boundary line	1 mile	Prior to harvest in stand 1 and 2		Part of Harvest Administration fees
Revitalize truck road into stand 2	3,000 ft	Prior to harvest in stand 1 and 2		Part of Harvest agreement
Selection harvest in stand 1 and the remainder of stand 2	60 acres < riparian buffers	Within the next five years	East end of lot	Approximately \$20,000 net revenue
Consider welcome signs	Three locations	After harvest	Near gate and near east trail intersections with boundary	unknown
Clean up dump and tire site	West side of access road	When resources become available	Stand 4	In cooperation with MFS and Hatch Hill

Bond Brook Recreation Area

A group of lots located behind the airport, this area is now known as the Bond Brook Recreation Area. The City purchased 166 acres in October of 2007 that was next to the airport and the Public Works complex now making approximately 266 acres plus the area around the airport. The goal for this parcel is to manage the timber and wildlife resource while complimenting a full array of recreational natural resource based activities.

The timber resource is being managed to meet the goals and started just after its purchase. This is recommended to continue in stand 3

<i>Schedule of Activities</i>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Time Factor</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Cost / Income</i>
Determine the load factor of the bridge relative to hauling forest products		Prior to harvest in stand 3	3	na
Initiate an improvement harvest in stand three	12 of 16 acres	2015-2020		\$3,000 to \$5,000
Monitor road and trail conditions	All trails	Annually		Na
Monitor forest health and safety concerns along trails	West side of access road	Annually		Part of Timber Sale Administration fees

Savage Park

Savage Park is a surprisingly verdant and wild seven-acre parcel of land directly adjacent to the new Route 3 bridge on the east side of the Kennebec River. The goal for this parcel is to manage the resource for public recreational opportunities. The site is balanced between intensive recreation areas and less intensive areas.

5 acres of the lot is forested sitting on moderately steep slopes with erodible soils. There is no recommendation to harvest or improve the timber at this time.

<i>Schedule of Activities</i>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Time Factor</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Cost / Income</i>
Locate, blaze and paint the North boundary line	600 feet	Within the next two years		Approximately \$250. Possibly from revenues from Pleasant Hill Timber Sale
Inspect (walk through) area for safety hazards	7 acres	Each Year		unknown
Remove the old bridge		In gully near T in trail		Safety Hazard
Consider trail expansion including walks along wetlands		Anytime		unknown
Consider signage relative to invasive species along field edge on northern side		Anytime		Anytime

Hatch Hill

Located at the end of the maintained portion of the discontinued Hatch Hill Road in Augusta Kennebec County, this parcel sets on both sides of the road beyond the gate and includes the landfill, forestland and wetlands. Once obvious farmland including pastures and woodlands, the lot is now mostly forested other than wetlands and landfill and now owned by the City; it is maintained as a productive woodlot. The goal for this parcel is to manage the timber and wildlife habitats as part of a productive woodlot providing buffers, screening, and land use control around the Hatch Hill Landfill.

<i>Schedule of Activities</i>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Time Factor</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Cost / Income</i>
Mark the wetland buffer	600 feet	Winter 2015	Stand 3	Part of Harvest Administration fees
Seed tree cut	12 acres	Spring 2015	Stand 3	\$10,000 – \$12,000 revenue
Monitor	3,000 ft	2016, 2018, 2020	All areas	Part of Harvest agreement
Selection harvest and overstory reduction	25 acres	2016-2020	Stand 5	Approximately \$5,000 net revenue
Monitor and maintain roads	Both roads	ongoing	Perimeter road and woods road on east	unknown

Market Place Conservation Lands

The Marketplace Conservation Land is located in an undeveloped area behind the Maine Public Safety Building and north of the snowmobile club off the Burns Road in Augusta. It is part of a deeded conservation easement to the City relative the abutting the Central Maine Commerce Center Inc. properties.

The goal for this parcel is to manage the resource for public benefit for the City of Augusta but management is restricted due to easements. I recommend that the City pursue avenues necessary to allow the implementation of a balanced Forest Management Plan designed to promote long term health of the forest environment and the protection of the wetland resources on this lot. Once approved in concept and the necessary regulatory agencies offer approval, a detailed Forest Management Plan should be established based on goals and limitations established throughout the process.

MEMORANDUM

TO: William R. Bridgeo, City Manager

FROM: Sam Nielsen

DATE: January 12, 2015

RE: Amendment to City Ordinance.

The Parking District Committee and the Augusta Downtown Alliance have been working together with city staff to review downtown parking restrictions and to find areas where they unnecessarily conflict with the interests of downtown residents. The group has agreed that the twenty-four hour parking restriction should not apply to vehicles registered by the Augusta Parking District as belonging to a resident of the downtown. Do to the existence of areas where parking is allowed for residents at any time of day, this places unnecessary responsibilities on those residents who would not otherwise need to move their vehicles. I respectfully request that the following amendment to the City Ordinance be presented to the City Council for their consideration at the next scheduled meeting.

BE IT ORDAINED, By the City Council of the City of Augusta, as follows:

That Chapter 18, section 66, Parking in excess of twenty-four hours; notice to move; removal by city, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

It shall be unlawful to leave a motor vehicle parked on a public way or in a municipal parking lot for a period in excess of twenty-four (24) hours unless such vehicle possesses a residential parking permit issued by the Augusta Parking District. If a vehicle is parked in violation of this section, a notice shall be placed on the windshield of such vehicle ordering its removal within twenty-four (24) hours. If after the expiration of such notice the vehicle is still in violation of this section, such vehicle may be removed in accordance with the provisions of this article.

MEMORANDUM

TO: William R. Bridgeo, City Manager

FROM: Sam Nielsen

DATE: January 12, 2015

RE: Amendment to City Ordinance.

The Parking District Committee and the Augusta Downtown Alliance have been working together with city staff to review downtown parking restrictions and to find areas where they unnecessarily conflict with the interests of downtown residents. The group has agreed that the one hour nighttime parking restriction should not apply to resident vehicles that are registered as such with the Augusta Parking District in order to reduce unnecessary paperwork by residents, the Augusta Parking District and the Police Department associated with all residents additionally having to fill out an application for nighttime parking for the police department. I respectfully request that the following amendment to the City Ordinance be presented to the City Council for their consideration at the next scheduled meeting.

BE IT ORDAINED, By the City Council of the City of Augusta, as follows:

That Chapter 18, section 67, Nighttime parking, permit required, exceptions, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

- (a) No vehicle shall be parked in any street of the city for a longer period than one (1) hour, between 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. except on permit granted by the Police Department.**
- (b) This section shall not apply to physicians on professional calls, to vehicles possessing a residential parking permit, or to fire, police or city highway vehicles.**
- (c) No vehicle with a gross vehicle weight in excess of fifteen thousand (15,000) pounds shall be parked, excluding the Augusta Business Park, for a longer period than one (1) hour in any street between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., except on permit granted by the Police Department.**