

Livermore Falls and Jay Walkable Audit Report

July 2009

Introduction

The Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), in cooperation with Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), conducted a Walkable Community Audit Workshop at the Treat Memorial Library at 56 Main Street in Livermore Falls on June 5, 2009.

Purpose

This report helps summarize the physical conditions, needs and opportunities for pedestrian facilities within and surrounding Livermore Falls and Jay area known as “Chisholm”. Over the past several decades industrial businesses have closed their doors in Livermore Falls and Jay. Livermore Falls is currently focused on successful mixed use: residential, office space, small-scale commercial and retail businesses within its downtown. The recent closure of the Wausau Mill was a devastating blow to the community with more than 250 mill jobs lost there need to be economic development plans to stabilize the town’s economy.

Several Livermore Falls and Jay properties currently are vacant and available for redevelopment, including the Wausau Mill. Potential for trail connections between Livermore Falls, Jay and existing recreational facilities in neighboring communities were analyzed.

With changes in economic opportunities, an evolution of the current landscape will be needed to make the community more pedestrian-friendly. The information contained in this report will provide the towns of Livermore Falls and Jay with priority projects towards becoming a more pedestrian-friendly community.

Methodology

Several hours of pre-audit work were conducted prior to holding the community walking audit. Work began with correspondence between AVCOG staff and town officials to determine the most appropriate area of the communities to conduct an audit. Once the audit area was selected staff visited the towns to meet the town official(s) and walk the focus area to gain familiarity. The pre-audit walk involved taking pictures within the audit area which offered good and bad examples of a pedestrian-friendly environment. The pictures were then downloaded to be used in a PowerPoint presentation given at the community walkable audit. A PowerPoint presentation was created to educate workshop attendees on pedestrian design, safety, education, and enforcement while using pre-audit pictures in the presentation for examples.

The Livermore Falls Town Manager and Jay Public Works Director posted fliers throughout the communities announcing an upcoming Walkable Community Workshop asking for participation towards making Livermore Falls and Jay more pedestrian-friendly. The workshop was sponsored by MaineDOT and administered by AVCOG staff; there were 11 participants consisting of citizens, municipal representatives, law

enforcement, and economic development and area civic organizations. The Androscoggin Land Trust participated with ideas based on previous projects, future projects, and how to connect existing local attractions to the area focused on in the audit.

The workshop was four-hours and included the PowerPoint presentation discussing pedestrian design, safety, education, enforcement, and encouragement. The workshop concepts were explained through towns-specific examples relating to trail, path, and sidewalk conditions and pedestrian-scale safety and development standards. After the PowerPoint presentation the group went out and walked the focus area and stopped along the way to discuss and identify the obstacles to walking and potential short and long-term solutions. Following the walk the participants were asked to write comments of what is needed within the towns (community buy-in); comments were written on maps of the focus area and the entire towns. Comments are outlined in the list below. This report includes a summary of comments for the focus area and townwide; list of workshop attendees; and promotional fliers for the workshop. The report has been submitted to the communities for comments or changes prior to the report being finalized.

AVCOG staff had previously attended the Active Communities Conference in Freeport and offered the participants informational materials from the Conference that encouraged the communities to do their own walkability checklist.

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Summary of Comments:

Livermore Falls Crosswalks and Sidewalks			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Establish sidewalk and curbing in front of Rosie's.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT
2	Improve visibility of the storm drain in front of Rosie's.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT
3	Improve the visibility of the sidewalk between stores and parking lots along Main Street.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT
4	Provide ADA accessibility to the cemetery at 138 Main Street, Livermore Falls in conjunction with MaineDOT reconstruction of Route 4.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	Public Works, MaineDOT
5	Improve the condition of the existing sidewalk network, such as adding curbing.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT

6	Add curbed ramps and truncated domes at all crossings	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	Public Works, MaineDOT
7	Paint crosswalks in Spring to maintain visibility or use durable material (e.g., thermal plastic)	High Priority – to be addressed annually	Public Works
8	Enforce no parking in sidewalk right of way and encourage businesses to designate parking spots on their property.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Police Department, Town Manager
9	As needed, relocate utility poles out of sidewalks for uninterrupted pedestrian movement.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT, utilities
10	Improve the crosswalk at Murray Hall.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT, Public Works
11	Fix the deterioration of the handicap ramp on Green Street and Richardson Street.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT, Public Works
12	Fix the height of the sidewalk along 138 Main Street.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT
13	Review painting techniques for crosswalks (i.e., glass beads used for longevity of paint, temperature is appropriate, and surface preparation has been conducted).	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager, Public Works
Livermore Falls Development			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Devise a plan for uniform retaining walls throughout the town to be submitted to MaineDOT for review.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager
2	Assess areas of infill potential for pocket parks.	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager, Planning Board
3	Incorporate aesthetics into the area of “Chisholm” and the downtown (i.e., plantings, hanging flower baskets, park benches, etc.)	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager, Public Works
4	Improve handicap accessibility to the Treat Memorial Library.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager, Board of Selectmen
5	Encourage the town and business owners to work together towards greater handicap accessibility.	On-going/High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager

6	Locate business signs at a pedestrian scale perpendicular to the sidewalk	Low Priority (to be completed within 6-10 years)	Public Works
7	Incorporate pedestrian-scale LED lighting along Main Street downtown.	Low Priority (to be completed within 6-10 years)	Town Manager, utilities
8	Develop a sidewalk network on both sides of Main Street where areas are designated or assumed.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT, Public Works
9	Include a park bench at Treat Memorial Library.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager
Livermore Falls Education			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Promote Adopt-a-Spot volunteer program within the community (developed, needs to be rededicated)	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager
2	Encourage the schools to be participate in community service (i.e., clean-up, paint, etc.) (developed, needs to be rededicated)	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager
Livermore Falls Off-Road Facilities			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Improve visibility of Treat Memorial Library (i.e., parking, signage)	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager
2	Improve the visibility of the entrance and exit signs to the Plaza along Main Street.	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager, Public Works
3	Encourage Family Dollar to remove their unused sign bases.	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager
4	Encourage Pan AM Railroad to maintain the vegetation in the right-of-way.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager, Public Works
5	Connect planned Livermore Falls Riverside Trail north to Whistle Stop Trail	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Managers, Androscoggin Land Trust
	Incorporate more trash receptacles around the community to combat littering.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Public Works
Livermore Falls On-Road Facilities			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Sign maintenance (i.e., replace or update, trim vegetation around)	High Priority (to be completed within 1-	Public Works, MaineDOT

		2 years)	
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Jay Crosswalks and Sidewalks			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Remove parking spots within the crosswalk buffer on Main Street across from St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.	Low Priority (to be completed within 6-10 years)	Public Works, Board of Selectmen
2	Improve the condition of the existing sidewalk network, such as adding curbing.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT
3	Encourage property owners to maintain a more positive appearance of their property.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager
4	Add curbed ramps and truncated domes at all crossings	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT
5	Continue policy of painting crosswalks in Spring, in conformance with the MUTCD, to maintain visibility and durability	On-going	Public Works
6	As needed, relocate utility poles out of sidewalks for uninterrupted pedestrian movement.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT, utilities
7	Improve the sidewalk along Franchetti's so customers cannot drive over it.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT
8	Require subdivisions be built with sidewalks.	Low Priority (to be completed within 6-10 years)	Planning Board
Jay Bicycling Facilities			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Create a walking/biking trail (improving French Falls trail) from Chisholm Square to French Falls including lighting	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager, Public Works
Jay Development			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Devise a plan for uniform retaining walls throughout the town to be submitted to MaineDOT for review.	To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	Town Manager
2	Assess areas of infill potential for pocket parks.	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager, Planning Board

3	Incorporate aesthetics into the area of Chisholm and downtown (i.e., plantings, hanging flower baskets, park benches, etc.)	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Public Works
5	Encourage the town and business owners to work together towards greater handicap accessibility.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manger
6	Locate business signs at a pedestrian scale perpendicular to the sidewalk	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Public Works
7	Establish landscaping between Main Street and railroad tracks.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Public Works, MaineDOT
8	Incorporate pedestrian scale LED lighting in Chisholm along Main Street.	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager, Utilities
9	Passenger rail service to Lewiston/Auburn and Livermore Falls	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager, MaineDOT, Pan Am
Jay Education			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Promote Adopt-a-Spot volunteer program within the community	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager
2	Encourage the schools to participate in community service projects (i.e., clean-up, paint, etc.)	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Town Manager
Jay Off-Road Facilities			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	Explore parking options concerning Franchetti's current parking conflict with through-traffic.	High Priority - To be addressed in conjunction with Route 4 construction	Public Works, MaineDOT
2	Encourage the Railroad to maintain the vegetation in the right-of-way.	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager
3	Wider sidewalks along Main Street.	Low Priority (to be completed within 6-10 years)	Public Works, MaineDOT
4	Extend walking trail south from Whistle Stop (from French Falls) to the old Jay town office.	Medium Priority (to be completed within 3-5 years)	Town Manager, Public Works
Jay On-Road Facilities			
	Issue/Community	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
1	The entrance to Wausau needs to be	To be addressed in	Public Works,

	improved at the opening onto Route 4 to be better defined	conjunction with Route 4 construction	MaineDOT
2	Sign maintenance (i.e., replace or update, trim vegetation)	High Priority (to be completed within 1-2 years)	Public Works, MaineDOT

Attendance Sheet:

LIVERMORE FALLS & JAY WALKING AUDIT
June 5, 2009

Name	Organization	Address	Phone
Jill Kingas	Town of Jay	340 Main St Jay	897-6785
Jan Chouvis	Town of Livermore Falls	2 Main St Livermore Falls	897-3321
Ernest Steward Jr	Livermore Falls Police Dept	2 Main St Livermore Falls	897-3424
Jonathan Labonte	Androscoggin Land Trust	Po Box 3145 Auburn	782-2302
Jean Walter	AVCOG	125 Manley Road Auburn	783-9186
David Chouvis		19 Baykild Rd	892-6128
Rose Creps	Maine SBOC	18 Knapp Street LF	504-6586
FRAN SZOSTEK	Planning Budget Committee	P.O. Box 226 LF (41 Knapp St) <small>CHICKS ST</small>	897-6158
KATHLEEN A. SZOSTEK	Board members Livermore Falls D.T. Bottomley	Po. Box 226, LF 04254	897-6158
Alson Hagerstrom	Greater Franklin	Po Box 107 Farmington ME	228-5887
Paul & Joan Gilbert	Jay - Populist #87	4 Elm St Jay pegilbert@hotmail.com	897-5743

Walking Audit Flier:

LIVERMORE FALLS/JAY “CHISHOLM” WALKING WORKSHOP



Who Should Attend?
Business owners, citizens,
municipal officials, public
safety officials, and others
interested in learning how to
make Chisholm an “active
community”



JUNE 5, 2009
1:00 - 5:00pm
at

Treat Memorial Library
(56 Main Street, Livermore Falls)



(Bring your walking shoes—rain or shine)

