

Proposal of the Basin Preserve Initiative Study Group

Mission of the Study Group: The Study Group studies the best possible uses for the parcel or parcels, totaling sixty acres, that The Nature Conservancy has proposed to transfer to the Town of Phippsburg. The acreage is to be used by the Town primarily for educational purposes and will consist of a portion of the acreage previously transferred by Mr. Hatch to The Nature Conservancy.

The land transfer parcel(s) must be approved by both The Nature Conservancy and the Town of Phippsburg prior to the transfer of the sixty acres to the Town's ownership. The Nature Conservancy's representative, Nancy Sferra, has been an active participant in the Study Group.

Structure of the Study Group: The Study Group was convened by asking the representatives of relevant Town committees and other community groups to attend meetings and suggest various options for uses of the acreage. Representatives from the following groups have provided ideas regarding uses for the acreage to date:

**Phippsburg Town Lands Management Committee
Phippsburg Town Recreation Committee
Phippsburg Town Conservation Committee
Phippsburg Land Trust
The Nature Conservancy
RSU 1
Bath Area YMCA
Jobs for Maine Graduates (based at Morse High School)**

Study Group's ideas for uses of the acreage:

Phase One – Establishment of an environmental education program, including, for example, construction of a high and low elements challenge course, fitness stations, Project Adventure outdoor course for teamwork and leadership training, born-learning projects for toddler – pre-K children, trail creation and maintenance training, and hiking and camping experiences.

Phase Two - Construction of an off-the-grid, energy independent and efficient, educational building, including parking space for cars and buses, bathrooms and kitchen.

Phase Three - Building of affordable housing units on a parcel remote from the building constructed in Phase Two

Needs from the Phippsburg Lands Management Survey January 2009 and from the Study Group

Recreation Committee – need for office and storage space and large open space for events, such as exercise classes for various ages, social events, after school programs during bad weather, etc.

The Nature Conservancy – sporadic need for classroom space

Phippsburg Land Trust – need for office and storage space

**Project Adventure – need for indoor space during winter months
Basin artifacts and Native American exhibit space, possibly wall space**

Please note: Phases may be re-ordered, revised or conducted simultaneously.

REQUEST:

The Study Group currently requests to be re-organized as a Town Committee in order that it can continue to explore the development of the sixty acres for the benefit of the Town. For the short term, being organized as a Town Committee will allow the Study Group to apply for foundation grants and other sources of funds, which would greatly assist with the planning and implementation of Phase One of this initiative. In the long term, the Town might consider organizing a not-for-profit corporation to implement other phases of this initiative and to ultimately staff and maintain the property; a not-for-profit corporation could raise funds from individuals, corporations and foundations on a tax- deductible basis.

Potential Benefits to the Phippsburg Community

Phippsburg Recreation Committee multipurpose facility for activities and storage for kid and adult programs

Potential for expansion of year round Phippsburg Recreation Community activities

Access to Phippsburg School

Day camp opportunities

After school activities such as outing club, cross country skiing, snow snowshoeing, tracking

Elimination of out-of-town transportation and program costs for Phippsburg School students to attend similar out-of-town programs

Fitness stations on trails

Outdoor workshop opportunities for kids and adults, including leadership opportunities, year round

Project Adventure and outdoor learning center for all ages

Opportunities for expansion of science and nature education curriculum for students and teachers

Community service opportunities for middle school and high school students

Opportunities for Scout, including Eagle Scout, projects

Potential tent sites for educational camping

Potential income programs