

Fox Lake Local Area Plan

Community Gathering & Open House

PUBLIC MEETING & COMMENT SUMMARY

Date: October 4, 2018

Location: Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers Research Forest

Attendees: John Burdek, Steering Committee
John Meikle, Steering Committee
Allison McNevin, Steering Committee
Arthur Hutchison, Steering Committee
Roy Neilson, Government of Yukon
Amanda Taylor, Government of Yukon
Natalie Leclerc, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
Jonathan Leger, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
Brad Cathers, MLA Lake Laberge
12 residents and property owners from the Fox Lake area

ITEMS:

1. Introductions & Open House

- Purpose of the public meeting is to provide the community with an update on the Fox Lake local area planning process.
- Meeting also intended to encourage dialogue and shared understanding amongst community members, including First Nation citizens.
- Meeting attendees encouraged to provide feedback via comment sheets provided. Deadline to submit comments is October 21, 2018.

2. Fox Lake Storytelling

- Seven community members shared stories and observations about their experiences living in the Fox Lake area.
- Virtually all community members emphasized the importance of wildlife values in the Fox Lake area, including the need to maintain viable habitat and wildlife corridors (including on private property).
- Several community members noted changes in animal and bird populations in recent years, including where certain species are observed. Local knowledge

Fox Lake Local Area Plan

Community Gathering & Open House

suggests some of this change may be attributable to land disposition and development.

- Some community members also noted observing changes in environmental conditions within the planning area, including poor berry seasons, decreased winter precipitation, and dropping water levels in Fox Lake.
- Many attendees shared their reasons for living in the area (peaceful lifestyle, close to nature, lack of modern conveniences).
- One community member discussed the importance of reestablishing traditional uses throughout the planning area, citing a First Nation trapline which has recently been brought back into use as an example.
- Several attendees noted concerns around backcountry access, including increased recreational use on local trails and unpermitted use of logging roads.
- One attendee who recreates in the area (paragliding) expressed interest in wanting to work cooperatively and collaboratively with all governments involved in the planning process.
- Community members also noted that planning process needs to consider distinct interests and values along western shore of Lake Laberge.

3. What is the Fox Lake Local Area Plan?

- In 2013, the Government of Yukon, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and Kwanlin Dün First Nation agreed to collaboratively develop a local area plan for the Fox Lake area. A Steering Committee comprised of local residents and First Nation citizens has been established to guide the process.
- Planning area is approximately 525 square kilometers and is entirely within the Traditional Territory of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Portions of the planning area are also within the Traditional Territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- The planning process involves three phases:
 - Phase 1 - Background Report & Issues Analysis ("Where we are")
 - Phase 2 - Visioning Report ("Where we want to be")
 - Phase 3 - Draft Local Area Plan ("How we will get there")

Fox Lake Local Area Plan

Community Gathering & Open House

- Background Report and Visioning Report are completed and available at: goto.gov.yk.ca/foxlakeplan.

4. TKC/KDFN Interview Summary Report

- Interviews with TKC and KDFN citizens were conducted between February and May 2017 in support of the Fox Lake local area plan.
- The interviews were intended to supplement input previously gathered from the general public in 2014/15 and achieve a better balance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives to inform the Visioning Report.
- Key themes from the First Nation interviews are highlighted in the Summary Report, available at: goto.gov.yk.ca/foxlakeplan.

5. Revised Visioning Report

- In March 2018, the community provided input on a draft Visioning Report prepared for the local area plan. A Public Engagement Summary was produced based on feedback received.
- In August 2018, the Steering Committee prepared a revised Visioning Report to inform the development of plan policies. The report was based on background information, public feedback and intergovernmental review.
- Both the Revised Visioning Report and Public Engagement Summary are available at: goto.gov.yk.ca/foxlakeplan.

6. Next Steps

- Further opportunities for public consultation will occur in the final phase of the planning process, which involves development and review of land use concepts, policies and of the draft local area plan.
- In the short term, the Steering Committee will hire a planning consultant to facilitate the process.
- Prior to commencing the next phase, we are working to ensure all First Nations expectations are being fulfilled with respect to participation in the Fox Lake local area planning process.

7. Comments and Discussion

Fox Lake Local Area Plan

Community Gathering & Open House

- The planning process was initiated in part due to concerns about unplanned development occurring along the highway corridor as a result of rural residential land applications received in the area. No new applications can be received while the planning process is underway.
- One attendee questioned whether “demand for residential land” should be included as a key planning consideration, noting that demand may have been artificially inflated by restrictions on rural residential land applications in adjacent areas.
- Several attendees noted that interest in the planning area increased significantly when power was brought in.
- Some attendees expressed concern that future development would not respect the character of the area.
- The Committee has decided not to publish a map showing the location of existing trails, so as to avoid encouraging increased recreational use of the planning area. Locations of existing trails will be considered by the Committee during the development of land use concepts.
- No additional comments or questions were submitted by meeting attendees prior to the October 21 deadline.

DISCLAIMER:

This summary is intended to capture the general content and spirit of the discussion, and should not be construed as a verbatim transcript of the meeting. Further, this summary constitutes the author’s understanding of the meeting and may not be exactly complete or accurate.

Notes prepared by: Amanda Taylor

Date: October 24, 2018