

TAGISH LOCAL AREA PLAN



*building
bridges*

LUNCH N' PLAN SESSION SUMMARY & NOTES

June 2015

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Two “Lunch n’ Plan” events were organized to launch the Tagish Local Area planning process in late May/early June 2015. The purpose of the sessions was to gather input to inform the development of draft Vision and Values for the Plan, as well as scope key planning themes and/or topics that would require more detailed discussion during Tagish Planning Week (TPW).

The first Lunch n’ Plan was held in the Tagish Community Centre on Saturday, May 30th and attracted over 40 participants. The second session was held at the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Government Office in Carcross and was attended by about 15 people. Both events were publicly advertised and primarily targeted at Tagish residents, property owners, and Carcross/Tagish citizens. The Tagish meeting was attended primarily by non-First Nation residents, with some property owners and First Nation residents also present. The Carcross meeting was attended primarily by C/TFN citizens.

AGENDA

Each “Lunch n’ Plan” commenced with an introduction to Planning Team and Planning Committee members and a brief overview of the overall process. After the introduction, participants were guided through a group discussion of **three key questions**:



1. What do you value most about Tagish? What do you want to see preserved long into the future?
2. What are the issues and challenges facing Tagish, both in the present and future?
3. What would Tagish ideally look or be like in 20 years? (*Participants were encouraged to think about: people, places, land, work, transportation, community life, etc.*)

In Tagish, participants were divided into smaller discussion groups and encouraged to switch tables for each question to cross-pollinate ideas and hear multiple perspectives. The Carcross

meeting followed a plenary format, with everyone contributing to the same conversation. At the end of the Tagish session, participants were encouraged to share any insights they had formed from the session, or simply share their thoughts or advice with the Planning Team. These ideas were written down on “dots” and displayed for review by the broader group.

Paper surveys were also on hand for participants to fill out individually. A total of 20 surveys were submitted to the Planning Team at the Tagish meeting and another 13 at the Carcross meeting. (Please note that the results of these surveys have been incorporated into the Community Survey #1 Results document).

KEY FINDINGS

During the three rounds of discussion, participants shared a broad range of ideas with the Planning Team and one another. The complete, unedited flipchart notes are presented in Appendix A; the following is a summary of the topics and themes that the Team noted as being prominent. (Please note: * signifies a key finding specific to the Carcross session and larger font denotes ideas/themes that were most frequently raised).

Values

- *Peace and quiet*
- *Freedom (from rules and regulations)*
- *Pristine, natural environment*
- *Community and volunteerism*
- *Heritage and history*
- *Fish and wildlife*
- *Access to water and trails*
- *Rural, undeveloped character*
- *Connection between Tagish and Carcross and traditional importance of Tagish to C/TFN and other First Nations**

Issues & Challenges

- *Aging population*
 - *Need for assistance/services*
 - *Threat to volunteer base*
- *Changes to lake levels (YEC project)*
- *Fracking/oil & gas development*
- *Fear of loss of personal freedom and rural character from zoning, etc.*
- *Lack of secondary accesses*
- *Serious neighbourhood impacts from a specific property owner*
- *Keeping Tagish “the same” while allowing it to grow*
- *Conflict of secondary accesses with caribou habitat*
- *Shoreline erosion*
- *Lack of jobs/opportunities*
- *Docks – cut off public access and habitat**
- *Infringement on C/TFN land rights from trespassing and resource extraction**

Vision

- Protected and preserved environment and wildlife
- “Keep Tagish the way it is!” (same “feeling” as now)
- A united and diverse community (First Nation/non-First Nation, different ages, families, etc.)
- Flexible community hub – office space, medical services, small businesses, etc.
- Support/services for seniors/Elders to age-in-place
- Controlled, managed growth and development
- Better transportation connections to Whitehorse
- Local food security and greater self-sufficiency – community gardens, etc.
- Cottage lots along the river and residential lots elsewhere*
- Venue for C/TFN culture – potential tourism linkages, help to revive Tagish culture and reconnect to Carcross*

CONCLUSION

The Planning Team will await the completion of Community Survey #1 and draw from the contents of this report and survey results to design the next stage of community consultation: TPW. The key ideas and topics raised by participants in regards to Vision and Values will be used to inform these Plan components. The Issues & Challenges will help to inform the Team’s choice of topics that will receive more in-depth discussion during TPW and in subsequent phases of planning.

APPENDIX A. FLIPCHART NOTES

1. What do you value most about Tagish? What is important to you about living here?

Table 1

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Community events, sense of community▪ Volunteerism▪ Peace and quiet▪ Still can drink the water▪ No need for sidewalks and city lights▪ Fish/fishing opportunities▪ Place where people know and help each other | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Self-regulating – no need for zoning, etc.▪ Simplicity of life▪ Marina▪ Local businesses▪ Keep Tagish a no-hunting zone▪ No more development: there is no more developable land except for First Nation lands |
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Table 2

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife and birds• Not developed• Pure, clean water without contaminants• Heritage• History and ancestors• River/water• Respect for neighbours• Peace and quiet• Organization offering activities• First Nation and non-FN people merge• Convenient community services (mail, library, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent volunteerism• Frack free!!• Increasing attention to kids/youth• Clean air• Mosquitoes (= a natural environment)• Communications (website, newsletter)• Fire tower• Essential emergency services (fire, ambulance, foot care)• Community events (i.e, market, pancake breakfasts, etc.)• Freedom (from restrictions, laws, regulations – FEAR that LAP will undermine this freedom) |
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Table 3

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nature, water• No fracking• Tagish as a refuge – quiet enjoyment• Community spirit• No rules, no cops, no government (need some to address issues) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep it how it is• Public water access• Waterfront trail (singletrack?)• Free store• Sensitive habitat – migratory water birds, animals, fish, everything! |
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Table 4

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freedom• Peace and quiet• Pristine environment• Lake, trails, forest, bush• Wildness – not “sculptured”• Keep things the way they are• Community feeling – social interactions• Not a city or suburb• Freedom from top-down rules on property (as long as not bothering) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenspaces left green• Critters – rabbits• Privacy• Frack-free Tagish• Respect neighbours▪ Recreation close to home – boating, hiking, trails• Continued growth of social activity and use of existing facilities for variety of activities |
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Table 5

- History (some of which is written)
- Wildlife
- Water life and closeness to water
- Quiet
- Community “feel”
- Lake and river
- Diversity – culture and seasonal population
- Recreational capabilities
- Greenspaces
- “The pace”
- The view
- Mix of ages
- Fishing
- Dark sky (no lights)
- Affordable/low key community hall
- Boat ramps
- Diversity of land space
- Volunteers invested in the community
- Diversity of housing/income (anyone can live in Tagish)
- Everything is of value and should be improved and preserved or maintained

Table 6

- Peace and quiet
- Clean water
- Birds
- Environment
- Having a beer on the bridge

Carcross

- Mr. White’s store – was the trading post, had historic value
- Cemetery – needs to be maintained
- Traditional trails
- Remote and quiet – the simple life
- Culture and history of the area
- Connection between Carcross and Tagish
- Community feeling – social interactions
- History – many families are connected to Tagish through family history
- Tagish Annie’s house
- Recreational value – people value boating
- Beaches
- Wildlife and habitat protection
- Tagish was a spring gathering spot for local First Nations (not just Tagish and Tlingit people)

2. What are the issues and challenges facing Tagish, both in the present and future?

Table 1

- Attracting younger people to the community
- Keeping Tagish “as is” with regulations and more people moving in: we don’t want to be like Whitehorse
- Preserve history
- Preserve the many smaller historic/archaeological sites that are located throughout area
- Keeping small, tight-knit sense of community
- Some challenges with larger businesses (Six Mile River & SPCA) – need to respect neighbours
- Might be outgrowing the current community hall
- Serving an aging population (housing, health services, administrative services)

Table 2

- Don’t have radio
- No 4G
- Increased water levels – YEC plans
- Threat of fracking
- Including and satisfying those people who don’t want a Plan!
- Lack of secondary escape route in Taku and Tagish Estates – impacts on emergency

- Forest fire threat – 100+ years since last fire
- Proposed secondary access route conflicts with caribou habitat
- Not enough opportunities for education and employment
- Planned and laid out as rural recreational – not consistent with community planning
- Lack of a central “hub”
- response
- Waste disposal (not enough room in the landfill) – questions about trucking option and whether trade-off (increased GHGs) is worth it
- Frequent power outages
- No more room for development
- Low Canadian dollar will spur foreign demand for land in places like Tagish

Table 3

- Dangerous dogs on a property – public safety concern
- Development without proper study about habitat, impacts, etc.
- Responsible development
- Lack of gas station (sign on highway is inaccurate)
- FireSmart on C/TFN lands
- Boat launch – no emergency access to houses behind the bridge
- Implementing the Plan (by Area Development regulations)
- Trails taken out by Taku subdivision (don’t want that to happen again)
- Cabins on California Beach falling into the water – bank erosion
- Free store/dump could use another supervisor to promote more re-use
- YEC increasing water level: need to speak up now!
- To keep Tagish as is....but....people come because of development
- No 911 service
- No fuel on the lake – jerry cans on the boat...spills in the lake
- More people = more garbage
- Internet and phone costs are very high
- Need planned process for development

Table 4

- Water levels – YEC impacts, fairness
- Erosion, wildlife impacts
- Building infrastructure we don’t need
- Balance needs of families
- Simple infrastructure but support people
- Aging population – maintaining volunteers
- Fast boating causing erosion on river and lake
- Fracking
- Second access from Taku Subdivision
- Employment opportunities
- Camping everywhere when campground is closed
- Impact of some properties on neighbours – dogs
- Population growth and diversity bringing new/different values

Table 5

- Need to preserve historic sites
- Secondary access needed for emergency purposes
- Would hate to see rural regulations come to Tagish (street/traffic lights, etc.)
- Dog shelter is disturbing neighbours and potentially posing danger to other dogs/people – BIG challenge!
- Second access should be a one-way emergency exit to avoid too much traffic
- Launch area/day use area too small
- Pointless speed signs (set @ 50 km in a 90 km zone)
- Moving forward while keeping the past
- Tagish is perfect – don’t change it. Keep it the same while not disturbing your neighbours
- Scared of oil, fracking ruining the land/area and water

- Not enough usable ramps for boats
- Do not want to turn Tagish into a big town

Table 6

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YEC's plan to raise water levels • Oil and gas development • Dogs are too loud! (too many in a single yard) • Motorized vehicles on the beach/doggie business • Bridge ice salting in winter goes into the water • ATVs in the water • Municipal structure needed for more say in government procedures of all sorts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free store – could be utilized more • Treat others how you would want to be treated • Public access beyond Pennycook Creek, possibly more resident property • Monitoring and enforcing all motor traffic • Dwindling fish and songbird populations • Growing population = more issues • Noise (dogs/motorized vehicles) affects people and wildlife • Wildlife habitat protection • Lack of commitment from government – no continuity in relationship with government |
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Carcross

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough jobs • Not enough action – always planning never doing • Balancing need to change and grow with people's desire to see things stay the same • Not enough/anything for youth to do – bored kids may turn to drugs/alcohol if no other options • Some dog owners exploit lack of rules • Local stories are not being told • Services in Tagish do not allow aging in place – seniors home, health, etc. • Wildfires are a potential issue – and opening up a new road would just provide new locations for fires to start • Second access can lead to increased crime • Maintaining public access to the waterfront and beaches • Docks can cut off public access and destroy habitat; need to be better managed • Additional recreational trails will increase disturbance to wildlife • Dog teams can harass birds and wildlife • Consider future use of campground – could be developed into cabins, boat launch for C/TFN. C/TFN commits to operating it for 10 more years and then their obligation is over. • C/TFN has interest in developing cottage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very little connection between Carcross and Tagish • No limits on the number of dogs • Would be good to use/connect traditional trails but many are now underneath roads/highway • Seasonal residents may not be in Tagish much but can still have a loud voice. Important to talk to people who live there full time. • No space for C/TFN gatherings, meetings or displays • Domestic goats and sheep – chance of disease spreading to wild populations. Need two fence system. • Second access is a no-go. It is not needed and will open up new territory to disturbance • Concern about private airstrip – what if there is a crash and fire starts in that area. Very close to settlement land. • Cemetery – erosion could jeopardise ongoing use • Boating can lead to erosion • Dog mushers trespassing/cutting trails on settlement lands • People are taking firewood from settlement land, especially during times of year that they are not allowed to cut on YG land (e.g., 10 Mile Road) • C/TFN is interested in enforcing land rights – cut down on trespassing and |
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lots along the river and residential lots elsewhere in the community

unauthorized resource extraction

- Coordination with habitat management planning

3. What would Tagish ideally look or be like in 20 years?

Table 1

- Office where Elders and others can see doctors or nurses (chiropractor, family physician, etc.) – could be multi-use
- Tagish being like 40 years ago
- No fracking or oil development
- No increase in the storage capacity for YEC
- Waste management that allows us to preserve water quality
- Unified community – no us versus them, same rules apply to everybody
- Still “bush feeling” of the community (not Firesmaring everything)
- Curling hall
- Flexible location with space for vet, medical services, hairdresser, etc.
- Cemetery – consider space and use
- Having planned for the Elders that want to stay in the community (basic infrastructure/services)
- Respect for each other
- Good relationship between C/TFN and the larger community – equal partners

Table 2

- Same “feel” as now
- Support and community spirit is maintained
- Wildlife (caribou, fish, etc.)
- Diversity of population
- Energy co-op
- People working together to meet basic needs
- Larger sense of community – inclusive, everyone feels comfortable, how to draw people in to build community?
- Interconnected, active trails
- Comfortable, controlled and managed change
- Cultural shift for residents to become stewards of the land and respect this place
- Return to a history of subsistence
- Education that helps provide for basic needs
- Locally grown food
- Community hall “waste of space” is hub of life – greenhouses, community kitchen, etc.
- Active transportation
- Healthy people, healthy food
- Seniors/Elders aren’t “shipped off” but don’t put in a big building – find other solutions

Table 3

- Keep rural recreational feel
- No extensive new development
- Maintain fishing quality
- No roadside hunting
- No running dogs
- Diversity of demographics and living styles are maintained
- Make it into hamlet...need willing people, more money for development
- Wildlife values respected and valued with development plans
- Quiet respectful place to retreat and
- Need trails map
- Recovered fish population
- More non-motorized and recreational pursuits in the area
- Facilities and services that match the local population
- “Responsible development” – thresholds for certain changes/development i.e., playground if more kids, senior’s residence if more seniors, etc.
- Clinics/doctor visits to community as there will be more people here

recharge from city life

- Infrastructure has capacity to handle residents and visitors

Table 4

- Post office in a new hall with windows
- Services and activities
- Maintain Tagish “feel”
- More young families
- Managed growth – not industrial/commercial
- Governance that meets Tagish’s needs
- Honest communication with YG
- Focus on community-driven projects
- Fire protection (24 “manning” of town)
- Peaceful
- Protected environment
- Maintain water control
- Heritage protected
- Good relationship/connection with C/TFN
- Balance jobs/growth with quality of life and not impacting neighbours
- Financial planning – understanding impacts of projects

Table 5

- Similar to what it is now
- Community centre/hall that provides recreational activity for young/old
- More employment
- Small rural community development
- Better communication flow throughout all government and community
- A balance of fish catching between First Nation people and everyone else i.e., everyone considers the depletion of fish
- Keep it free and unincorporated
- Available health care (won’t have to travel to Whitehorse or Carcross)
- Community garden
- Recreational development with the trails
- No more unwanted Firesmart in certain areas (pointless and doesn’t work)
- Using the wilderness for educational purposes e.g., people come to Tagish to learn about the bush

Table 6

- Ban on motorized vehicles on the beach
- Community life
- Composting program at the dump
- Things to be just as good (if not better) than now
- Senior’s residence, maintain homecare
- Greenbelts/habitat protection
- Well signed trail systems and public accesses
- New boat ramp (existing one is overused)
- 911
- Health centre/assistant
- Convenience store/gas
- Tagish emergency plan
- Monitored trail systems with walking only zones (habitat protection area greenbelt)
- Participation in local food strategies – community garden and greenhouses
- Strong community support (good neighbours, everybody knows everybody)
- Less Firesmart, as it’s not so smart!
- Good place to fish in the future
- Noise enforcement
- Drinkable water, hopefully forever
- “No wake” zone next to docks (no proper enforcement of boating rules)
- Recycling program
- Community wharf (free of charge)
- Secondary access roads to all subdivisions
- Paved roads
- Defibrillator for Tagish
- Maintain strong environmental protection
- Natural gas into all homes
- Increased camping fees
- Management process over industrial/commercial developments that involves the public
- Flush toilets in the campground (high water is an issue for the outhouses)
- Community generator backup system (one line in for power)

(Firesmarted areas proven to burn faster)

Carcross

- Ongoing public access to the waterfront
- Keep Tagish the way it is right now
- Gravel pit for grad parties – need safe place
- First Nation and non-FN working and living together side by side – one community
- Community needs adequate emergency services and other services (post office) to match population's needs
- Better transportation connection to Carcross and Whitehorse
- More tourism opportunities (not big buses, but things for people to do)
- Potential to have a healing camp in Tagish
- Preserve history and protect traditional trails
- Recognition of C/TFN land rights and respect for their land
- Signage needed to tell the community's stories
- Place with businesses and jobs – potential for a store, overnight accommodation like cabins or hotel
- Wildlife are in the area and habitat is intact
- Activities for youth – skate park, baseball, basketball, etc.
- Opportunities for people to age in place
- Place where people can work
- Frack-free Tagish
- Health services needed, especially for seniors – could be provided from Carcross several days/week
- Benches on the bridge for people who are fishing
- More cultural activities – culture camp, small cultural/tourism centre with jobs for young people, annual event like a dance contest or stick gambling for all of C/TFN. Potlatch house, venue for C/TFN meetings and gatherings, something like Skookum Jim's house – need to find a way to revive Tagish culture and reconnect the two communities

"Connecting the Dots" Input

- Create a balance between nature and development (political and otherwise) to maintain a quality of life
- We need a method/system to enforce standards? Could become hamlet status so our wishes are heard/financed. Need communication and consultation re changes/planning process.
- Tagish in 20 years: 1. Be able to live off the land, good clean gardens, no insecticides 2. Healthy animals like chicken, pigs, cows, etc. For our people to survive off the land like they did seventy-five years ago. 3. Good clean air and health and water.
- Zero carbon self-sufficient, resilient, cooperative community in which people recognize our privilege of living here and the responsibility we have to protect it. Energy democracy.
- Responsible development.
- Environmental care of the region. No gas drilling. Follow through – so many ideas and projects are not completed by YTG.
- Need elected local government to focus expectations, concerns and manage future development.
- The impression I got is that most people want to keep Tagish as it is now, or close to that. In the future it should still be a rural community and have that feeling. Also keeping the environment around Tagish intact is important.
- Develop sustainable local food system!
- Listen to people's ideas. Maintain the quiet lifestyle we have.
- Progress often comes with change, which is not easy but beneficial.
- Cooperative consultation to maintain quality of life
- Wildlife and recreational opportunities maintained and balanced. Infrastructures developed for aging seniors and for the next younger generation.

- How this is done/plays out is as important as what is done in the planning process and the plan.
- Protect this special place! Work to ensure the environment is protected, nurtured and restored. Support actions and initiatives for sustainable food and a harmonious community!
- Take control of higher lake levels to prevent erosion i.e., YEC proposal. Harms animals and the land.
- Comfortable, controlled, and managed change
- Comfortable, controlled, and managed change. Remembering we are stewards of this pristine area. Being respectful of nature and one another.
- Responsible development with thresholds to trigger each stage
- Planning moves at a pace that captures important issues that may be slow to percolate to the surface.
- Use common sense
- Water levels and mitigation. No roadside hunting between Jake's Corner and Carcross.
- Waiting for more info, still learning
- Consistent electricity
- Comfortable, controlled change and managed change
- Comfortable, controlled, and managed change (not too much change too quickly)

Other Questions and Comments

- May present uses not be allowed anymore once there are regulations?
- Dealing with changes
- Don't want to be incorporated – too many rules and taxes
- The land is changing!
- Secondary access should be part of the plan!
- Tagish River HPA needs to conform with the plan!
- Need for responsible development for future growth
- No motorized vehicles along the riverbank (HPA)
- Fine line between controlling problems and maintaining Tagish as is
- Will Tagish become a village? Or incorporated community? What does that mean?
- Being listened to is a challenge
- Try for 80% satisfaction with the planning process
- Children of current owners are taking over cabins – this bodes well for the future
- 95% of Tagish community is happy about the plan
- Being listened to is important – whatever rules are made by the planning process will be difficult to enforce