

12/9/20

**Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory MMC NAC Notes**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Attending?</i>
1 Spencer Thibodeau	sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov	District 2 City Councilor	zoom
2 Nell Donaldson	hcd@portlandmaine.gov	Portland Senior Planner	zoom
3 Peter Hall	spruceboy@maine.rr.com	West End	zoom
4 Lin Parsons	linparsons@maine.rr.com	West End	zoom
5 Anne Pringle	oldmayor@maine.rr.com	Western Prom	zoom
6 Alvah Davis	alvah.davis@gmail.com	Western Prom	zoom
7 Brett Gabor	brett.gabor@gmail.com	Libbytown	no
8 Ed Suslovic	esuslovic@gmail.com	Libbytown	zoom
9 Emma Holder	president@parksideneighborhood.org	Parkside	zoom
10 Liz Trice	liztrice@gmail.com	Parkside	no
11 Moses Sabina	mosessabina@yahoo.com	St John Valley Neighborhood	zoom
12 Tim McNamara	stjohnvalley@live.com	St John Valley Neighborhood	zoom
13 Jennifer L. McCarthy	JMcCarthy@mmc.org	MH Chief Operating Officer	zoom
14. Al Green	AGreen@mainehealth.org	Associate Vice President of Planning	zoom
15. Walter Pochebit	POCHEW@mmc.org	Vice President, Facilities Management	zoom
16. Brian Batson	<u><a href="mailto:BBatson@mainehealth.org">BBatson@mainehealth.org</a></u>	Community Relations Manager	zoom

**Standing Agenda Items** (15 minutes total)

- Approve Previous Minutes
- Updates on MMC Expansion Project: Construction, updates, timeline, mitigation
- Subcommittee updates: Grants, Neighborhood Planning
- (MMC and Neighborhood Updates sent out prior to meeting, not discussed unless needed)

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**Construction updates**

Walter gave an overview of recent work on the Congress Street building, noting that the hospital is continuing to work on secant piles and will be doing so through the spring. He shared that the

Portland Fire Department had recently been involved in rescue drills on site, using the holes drilled for the secant piles.

### **Sound Study**

Al gave an overview on the Sound Study, which was distributed to members in advance of the meeting. He noted that the Soundy Study was triggered by the number of complaints received in the initial months of helicopter operations. Through the Sound Study, the hospital's sound engineer gathered actual sound data from landings at the primary and secondary pads during the day and night time. The engineer then recalculated DNL, and found that the threshold for mitigation (65 DNL), as established in the hospital's Sound Measurement Plan, has not been reached at any of the sound measurement points.

Ed noted that a small working group, consisting of himself, Alvah, Peter, Nell, Al, and Brian had met prior to the NAC meeting to review the Sound Study findings. That meeting included a discussion about how the hospital is communicating about helicopter operations and sound. He also noted that perception of sound is subjective, hence the need for the thresholds in the Sound Measurement Plan.

Emma suggested that, though thresholds haven't technically been met, some neighbors may continue to perceive sound as a major concern, and questioned whether some mitigation could be provided. She also suggested that Caring Community grant money might be used for mitigation at individual properties in the future.

Tom Judge gave an overview of recent LifeFlight operations at the helipad. He noted that since the opening of the new pads, 519 flights have occurred into/out of the helipads, less than originally projected for the year. He stated that LifeFlight is providing tracking data to the hospital quarterly. Tom noted that wind is regularly more of a factor at the helipads than it is at the airport, and that wind out of the west requires particular adjustments for helicopters landing at the pads. He noted that these wind conditions appear to correlate with noise complaints. He also noted that heat affects approaches and landing patterns. In terms of operations, he noted that there was an observed pattern of pilots landing on the secondary pad, but that this pattern has been addressed.

Peter asked if all LifeFlight helicopters have the same engines. Tom responded that all 3 of LifeFlight's main helicopters and their one backup have the same engines. Helicopters coming out of Boston and Dartmouth Hitchcock have different engines.

Alvah noted that the DNL measurement for one of the points comes close to meeting the threshold for mitigation, and that measured peak sound levels at several of the monitoring points were significant. He also noted that he has observed a pattern of flights coming to the helipad, leaving for PWM to refuel, and returning. Tom stated that this does happen from time to time. There is no fuel on the roof at MMC, unlike other large hospitals in the state.

Alvah also noted a pattern of helicopter flights coming from the north/east (Bangor?) all taking the least preferred approach route. Tom suggested that LifeFlight will look at this.

Anne raised a question about communicating information about helicopter operations and sound. Jennifer noted that part of the NAC's responsibility is to communicate with neighborhoods about information shared at the NAC meetings, including about sound. She also acknowledged that this material is technical, so MMC may need to provide some assistance on

this. The group discussed ways to provide basic background information (e.g. small meeting, FAQs, video on the hospital's website), and ways to provide more regular communication on helicopter operations over time. The hospital and LifeFlight both acknowledged this need, but expressed concern about providing additional outreach around helipad operations at this time, given COVID workloads. It is anticipated that this conversation will continue.

### **Facilitators and Notekeeper for 2021**

Jennifer noted that Brian will step into the co-facilitator role for MMC in the coming year. Anne noted the importance of Jennifer's continued involvement.

Ed noted that Libbytown has selected a replacement for Brett. Ed will loop that person into the January meeting.

Emma conditionally offered to serve as co-facilitator for 2021, although she raised concerns about fulfilling the notekeeper role. She suggested that meetings be recorded to facilitate notekeeping. The group discussed the pros and cons of recording, including impacts that recording might have on the ability of the group to share and discuss freely, the administrative burden of recording and deleting recordings, and the benefit of freeing up all group members to fully participate in dialogue. The group decided that Emma and Brian will follow up to discuss the notekeeper role and ways to ensure that notekeeping always happens in an effective way.

### **Unfinished Business**

Helicopter communication

Co-facilitators and notekeeper for 2021

TDM: Al Green: is Chris Chop being replaced?