

Watersmeet

U.S. Highway 2 Visual Enhancement

Planning Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Picture This...in 15/20 years

- In 2025, we would still have the 'Northwoods' look
- There would be more greenery in our town
- We would have more hiking/walking pathways that would be well defined and we could walk from shop to shop
- There would be small shops with log exteriors
- The non polluting lighting would be throughout the community
- We would have a new community welcome center that exemplifies our multi-cultural heritage
- Viewsheds of the river both in town and on US 2 would be enhanced
- Traffic calming is in place so people driving can actually see our community
- Gogebic Indianhead is incorporated into our logo and we have signed all our lakes with historic signs (on cedar posts- hollowed out so as to protect them)
- We are using the Ojibwe language translations and historical references of Native American heritage
- There are interpretive signs telling about our heritage
- We have enhanced the Agonikak trail and the scenic overlook of Duck Creek and the North leg of the triple watershed divide
- The area is landscaped with native species, wildflowers, grasses and ferns
- We have a signed, well defined trail system
- We've incorporated logging, fur trading and the railroad into our theme
- We have maintained our wilderness area

Current Conditions/Issues

Landscaping

- No greenery
- There is none
- Snow removal causes damage to flower plantings
- Not maintained
- There's an empty canvas and power lines

Curbs

- Irregular
- Plows damage them
- Salt is an issue

Sidewalks

- Irregular
- Some only on one side of the street
- No consistency from one block to the next

Pathways

- Not well defined
- Two ruts everywhere from 4-wheelers because they just go everywhere

Power lines

- They stand out
- There are so many

Blight

- Deteriorated buildings
- No way to get rid of scrap metal

Signage

- Ordinance is being updated
- The signage is confusing
- Entrance signs are too close in and people are by the community before they slow down

Clearing on the roadsides

- Prison work crews are cutting back the trees on the roadside and it is changing its attractiveness

Pipeline

- Should be hidden

Unclear messages

- 'where's the water?

Potential Solutions

- Use of boulders/rocks
- Use of native landscaping materials
- Enhance the look of buildings with vegetation
- Get people to 'slow down'
- Enhance the identity of Watersmeet
- Get some consistency/cohesiveness
- Connect the businesses
- School renovation could be a catalyst
- Consider the viewshed/hill next to Nordeens