

Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board

(Auburn Community Forest Working Group of SNRB)

Minutes 2 22 24 Approved: 3 21 24

6:00 PM Auburn Sr. Center

Present: Dave Griswold, Steve Murch, Jeremy Lavertu, Noel Skelton, Sam Boss

Excused: Rhyanna LaRose, Zoe Lidstrom

Absent:

-Call to Order: 6:05

- 1 11 24 minutes: Approved

-Public Participation: None-

1. **Strategic Plan:** It was agreed to make the “Notable Trees of L-A” project a priority. Sam will contact Clarissa Aoki to see if she still has the work product from the Bates work done in 2022. Discussion that the list needs to be reviewed and expanded. Selected trees should be mapped and photos taken at the best season. Other priorities will be discussed at future meetings.

2. **New Auburn, Pulsifer Street Sycamore Tree update:** Noel reported that the tree will be removed, but no schedule has been set. Dave suggested Higmo’s in Brunswick as a sawmill that might be a candidate to custom saw the logs for materials to promote the community forest.

3. **Project Canopy Grants:** Dave reported that training is required this year for anyone submitting a grant, since the program has been revised and more funds are available. The information on how to register was forwarded to all, as well as Mark Conrad at the Auburn School Dept. The training webinar is on Feb 28 from 1:00-3:00. Jan Santerre is the contact. Noel will write Auburn grants and Steve will coordinate for Lewiston. Each city applies separately. Possible projects include ELHS landscaping, Auburn Food Forest, Lewiston Memorial Grove, and street trees. Once we have seen the details from the training, we can develop grants for the 5 15 24 application deadline.

4. **Maine Arbor Week:** We will develop plans at our April meeting. Initial thought is to focus on “Notable Trees” project.

5. **Joint Meeting with Bowdoin Tree Campus Group:** Dave confirmed that Keisha Payson, at Bowdoin, is interested in having a joint meeting with us at our March meeting 3 21. He will follow up to confirm an agenda. Our plan is to review the LACFB Strategic Plan, and request the

Bowdoin group touch on the process they used to get Tree Campus certified. Jeremy may be able to bring the Tree Campus template to Bates.

6. **BMT control efforts:** Noel reported on plans to use a state grant to clip and spray BMT in Auburn, with focus on Schools grounds and parks. Steve has similar plans for Lewiston, but was not able to apply for a grant due to the October shooting just before the deadline.

New Business: None

Next meeting: March 21 6:00 at the Senior Center.

Adjourn: 7:15