

Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board

(Auburn Community Forest Working Group of SNRB)

Minutes 1 11 24 Approved: 2 22 24

6:00 PM Auburn Sr. Center

Present: Dave Griswold, Steve Murch, Jeremy Lavertu, Noel Skelton, Zoe Lidstrom

Excused: Rhyanna LaRose, Sam Boss

Absent:

-Call to Order – 6:32

- 11 16 23 minutes: Approved

-Public Participation: None-

1. Strategic Plan Review: 2024-2028 Five Year Strategic Plan was approved. Dave will bring it to the SNRB on 1 18.

2. New Auburn, Pulsifer Street Sycamore Tree update: Noel said the large sycamore on Pulsifer St, which has been nominated as a “Significant Tree of L-A” will have to be taken down after homeowner request and review of house foundation issues by an engineer. It is possible the tree is causing damage to the cellar wall and the homeowner wants it removed. Noel is pursuing opportunities to turn the wood into commemorative items, as was done with the tree “Herbie” in Yarmouth, several years ago.

New Business:

- 1. Joint meeting with Bowdoin “Tree Campus” group:** It was agreed that Dave would invite Bowdoin’s committee to a joint meeting at our March meeting to exchange ideas.
- 2. Project Canopy Grants:** Dave reported that Jan Santerre expects to send out Project Canopy Guidelines by the end of January. Grants with a match requirement are expected to increase from a max of \$10,000 to \$15,000. New funds are expected to be available for projects up to \$200,000 without a match. They will target areas with specific demographic characteristics. The ELHS landscaping may be able to qualify, but more information is needed.
- 3. RETREEUS steward:** RETREEUS is planning to hire a steward and is looking for opportunities to partner with organizations such as LACFB. Richard Hodges is the contact.

4. **EAB Trap Trees in Lewiston:** 4 Lewiston properties were sampled, and one had EAB, Steve is participating in plans for treatment and the possibility of a biological control release.
5. **BTM:** Auburn has received a State grant of \$6100 for BTM mitigation activities in the first half of 2024. Monies will be spent on outreach, education and pruning.

Next meeting: Feb 15 6:00 at the Senior Center.

Adjourn: 7:21

Adjourn: 7:20