

Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board

(Auburn Community Forest Board Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission)

Minutes 2 16 23 Approved: 3 16 23

6:00 PM Auburn Sr. Center

Present: Dave Griswold, Sam Boss, Jeremy Lavertu, Zoe Lidstrom, Steve Murch

Excused: Noel Skelton, Rhyanna Larose, Cassidy Cloutier, Roger Fuller

-Call to Order – 6:05

- 1 19 23 minutes: Approved Note Nov minutes still need approval due to oversight by Chair

-Public Participation: None-

- Potential Project Canopy Grants to celebrate 20 years of TCUSA 2003-2022: Auburn and Lewiston will each submit applications, referencing the 20th year project. Plan is to plant 10 trees in Auburn and 10 trees in Lewiston in high traffic areas, if possible. Dave spoke with Mark Conrad about possible planting sites at schools. Mark deferred to Noel on site selection. Mark noted that the landscaping budget at EL has been cut to \$50,000, so a project next year would be appreciated. Auburn Rec did not respond. Gary Wadsworth is developing an application with Noel on 3rd shift. Steve is developing an application for Lewiston. Deadline to get the applications to Jan Santerre is 3 22. Signage would be something like this:

City of Auburn (Lewiston)

Celebrating Tree City USA

20 years 2003-2022

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Discussion of 2022 plantings and removals of street trees: Auburn discussion postponed due to Noel's unavailability. Steve reported that Lewiston removals and plantings were consistent with past years.

Discussion of 2023 Initiatives:

- Nursery: Steve suggested adding trees at the nursery during Arbor Week. Fedco is a possible source of planting stock. Jeremy will check another source.
- Bittersweet Workshop: There is a lesson plan and materials developed by Bates students last fall (see previous minutes). Target audience proposed as homeowners who could maintain efforts to eliminate bittersweet on their property. Discussion of timing. Bates students will be gone after May. Workshop should occur after vines leaf out. June was suggested. Topic for future meeting.
- Discussion of the potential for an arboretum featuring unusual native species.

Membership: Jeremy Lavertu has joined us from Auburn, and will be confirmed by the SNRB once its meeting is rescheduled from 1 12 23. Zoe Lidstrom has joined us as a Lewiston rep.

New Business: February is Brown Tail Moth Awareness Week. The Maine Forest Service has sent out information that has been posted on both cities' websites. There are nests visible in the trees at many locations, so raising awareness in the community is a positive.

- **Adjourn:** 7:00