

## Sustainability & Natural Resources Management Board

**Minutes:** 10 12 23

Approved: 1 18 24

### **Attending:**

Community Forest Working Group:	Dave Griswold
Conservation Working Group:	Jane Costlow
Natural Products & Agriculture Working Group:	Chris Carson
Sustainability Working Group:	Ralph Harder
Mayor's Representative:	Councilor Leroy Walker
Planning Board Representative:	Shelly LeBlanc- ABSENT
Excused:	
Staff:	City Manager Crowell

Guests: Dana Staples, Kathy Shaw, Julia Harper

**Recorder:** Dave Griswold

**Call to Order:** 6:05

1. **Minutes** for 4 13 23 were approved. 7 13 23 minutes were not available and held for the next meeting.
2. **Public Participation:** Kathy Shaw spoke in favor of the proposed Food Forest at the Tot Lot
3. **Recycling Update:**
  - a. City Manager Phil Crowell presented a City Council Information Sheet for 10 12 23 meeting, outlining a recycling program to be implemented city wide approximately November 1.
    - i. All wards will be included. Service to current solid waste participants
    - ii. Pickup will be every other week
    - iii. Accepted materials will include #1, #2, #5 plastics, cardboard and mixed paper. There is no market for glass, and metal can be recycled through

the incinerator. Removing glass and metal will reduce tonnage of recycled material and therefore cost to the City.

- iv. Launch of Recycle Better App to improve communication and education, Collection calendar and service day reminders and real time updates and alerts (email, text or phone call)
- v. Waste Wizard Tool to help identify what items are recyclable.
- vi. Distribution of Auburn-specific Casella direct mail pieces
- vii. Data collection by Casella, including household participation and percentage of waste collected.
- viii. Central drop-off containers at Public Works will be retained for now
- ix. Cost: \$153,512 for 8 months. \$189,000 was budgeted

#### **4. Food Forest Proposal**

- a. Kathy Shaw reviewed the proposed Food Forest. Misty Edgecomb was unable to attend. The Food Forest would be located at the Tot Lot. It would include multiple tree, shrub, and vegetable layers to produce a variety of foods as well as education, recreation and public art. It would be a benefit to the City, NP&AgWG endorses the concept. Next step would be endorsement by the SNRB and a presentation to the City Council. The effort requires a detailed plan which will be developed by a consultant following an RFP process.
- b. Discussion included the advantages of involving the School Department to collaborate with a program similar to the Land Lab at CP Wight and East Auburn from mid 1990's to 2013. Having children city wide as regular Food Forest users could leverage grant funds from Project Canopy. There were concerns about the relatively remote location of the Tot Lot.
  - c. THE SNRB agreed to support further development of the Food Forest proposal.

#### **5. Local Food Action Plan Update:**

- a. Julia Harper reviewed the ongoing process to update the 2019 plan.
- b. Feedback on priorities is welcome, hopefully before 10 18.
- c. Public meeting on Wednesday, 10 25, 4:00-7:00 at the Hilton.

#### **6. Working Group updates:**

- a. NP&Ag- See agenda and above: Food Forest; Good Food Council-Local Foods Action Plan Update; review of developing farm plans with Katherine Cook; Fall Farm Tour proposed for 2024.
- b. Conservation- see agenda: Issues with getting website updated; focus on developing access to Little Androscoggin, with assistance from Jonathan Labonte; Littlefield dam removal grant resubmission; pollinator habitat focus outreach and education in 2024.

- c. Sustainability WG: see agenda and above, focus on recycling restart.
  - d. – Community Forest WG- see agenda. A bittersweet video is in development thanks to Carol Lane; plans are being finalized to plant trees at schools, funded by Project Canopy; five year LACFB Strategic Plan is being updated.
7. New Business- City Manager Crowell announced that the Absolutely Auburn Podcast is to be launched and will cover sustainability topics

NEXT MEETING January 11

Adjourn: 7:21