

Sustainability & Natural Resources Management Board

Minutes: 4 13 23

Approved: 10 12 23

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- ABSENT

Planning Board Representative: Stacey LeBlanc- ABSENT

Excused:

Staff: Eric Cousins for City Manager

Guests:

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Call to Order: 6:10

1. Minutes for 10-22 and Special Meeting on 12-22 were approved
2. Public Participation policy for SNRB was approved as follows:
 - ***Members of the public are invited to speak to the SNRB about any issue related to SNRB business or any item that does not appear on the agenda. Please limit your comments to five minutes.***
 - ***Public participation shall appear on the agenda following approval of minutes.***
3. New members: proposed membership of Jeremy Lavertu on the Community Forest Working Group and Ben Lounsbury on the Sustainability Working Group were both approved.
4. Officers: Chris Carson agreed to succeed Jane Coslow as chair, and Dave Griswold agreed to stay on as secretary. Thank you, Jane, for your service and leadership.

5. The new Cyr Proposal to address the income requirement in the AGRP was discussed, including a draft memo which raises SNRB concerns. A motion to approve the draft memo and send it to the City Manager for inclusion in the packet for the joint City Council workshop with the Planning Board scheduled for 4 18 was approved 4-0.
6. Update on Maine Community Resilience Program: Survey in process with key city staff. Community involvement will follow.
7. Working Group updates:
 - a. NP&Ag- An public presentation to inform citizens about State current use tax programs (Farmland, Open Space, Tree Growth) and the process to place land in a conservation easement will be held at the Senior Center on May 20. Karen Scammon, City Assessor, will lead the discussion. Several conservation organizations including Maine Farmland Trust will participate.
 - b. Conservation- CWG has met with Jonathan LaBonte to explore opportunities to develop access to the Little Androscoggin above the Upper Barker dam. This effort will be a focus in 2023.
 - c. SWG- SWG chair, Ralph Harder asks that the WG be provided an update on progress with the solid waste and recycling contract. Jane Costlow will pass the request on to the City Manager.
 - d. - CFWG- Arbor Week May 15-19 will celebrate Auburn's 20 years as a Tree City USA (2003-2022). Plans for Arbor Week in Auburn will be finalized at the meeting on 4-20.
 - A grant request has been sent to Project Canopy to fund the planting of 10 trees at Auburn Schools to mark Auburn's 20 years of TCUSA.
 - WG plans to review the proposed city arborist budget which now includes funds to replace street trees removed in 2022, per the Street Tree Sustainability ordinance passed last year.
 - A Bittersweet awareness and control workshop will be held at the Senior Center on June 16. Focus is homeowners in a position to address invasive bittersweet on their property.
8. New Business- Disappointment was expressed that the Chair of the Planning Board and Mayor's Representative did not attend, and therefore did not contribute to the important discussion of the Cyr Proposal concerning the AGRP income requirement, prior to the City Council/Planning Board workshop on that subject scheduled for 4 18.

Adjourn: 7:33