



# Auburn, Maine

Conservation Commission

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210

[www.auburnmaine.gov](http://www.auburnmaine.gov) | 207.333.6601

## Minutes- July 16, 2019

### Draft

- 1) Roll Call
  - a) Called to order at 6:04
  - b) Members present: Jordan Tate, Rhyanna Larose, Sam Boss, Maurice Keene, Tizz Crowley
  - c) Guests: Kathy Shaw, Michelle Melaragno, Ned Claxton
- 2) Review and Approve June Minutes
  - a) Tizz: additions include subcommittees for Mt Apatite “in efforts to collaborate, the conservation commission will work with these non-city organizations”. Motion to approve with the additions, Maurice Seconded, unanimously approved.
- 3) Public Comment/Guest Visitors
- 4) Work Completed
- 5) Work in Progress and Subcommittee Updates
  - a) Parks/Cemeteries
    - i) Tizz: Parks no action due to no recruitment. Cemeteries: Tizz will follow up with Jill Eastman regarding donations for cemeteries bottle drive planter project. Any roopers just specify project.
  - b) Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board
    - i) Rhyanna provided the update for LACFB: Currently working on Strategic Plan. Meeting this Thursday, July 18, at 7pm at the tree nursery. Updating current membership information.
  - c) AGRP Updates
    - i) Jordan Tate motioned that champions, liaisons, members of subcommittees provide typed monthly updates to the chair one week prior to the Conservation Commission meeting. Tizz seconded, unanimously voted
    - ii) Ad hoc farm and forest group was formed
    - iii) Sam asked about how workgroups operate and potential problems with members of work groups not understanding policies and procedures and our ordinance. Sam recused himself from discussion of the Bates survey due to conflict of interest.

- iv) On July 15, 2019 the Mayor issued a statement regarding the Bates Survey, which incorrectly quoted the Conservation Commission ordinance. On July 16, 2019 the Mayor issued a corrected statement.
- v) Maurice identified other claims in the statement by the Mayor regarding the use of the survey that he felt were not accurate.
- vi) The Conservation Commission will choose to not respond to the statement by the Mayor.
- vii) There was discussion clarifying that the statement is reflective of the Mayor only, and whether or not he has any authority over operation of the Conservation Commission. See more in Section 3.3 under Powers and Duties of the city charter.
- viii) Comments from the public:
  - (1) The survey itself was developed by individual citizens, not by any one group. Stressing the importance of protecting citizen initiatives projects. There have been multiple requests since the original ag zone landowner mailed letter to send more letters for updates and the City denied requests but provided the mailing list for citizens to take on the mailings themselves. Feel as though there is unfair treatment of individuals involved regarding their meetings and conduct that is unwarranted.
  - (2) Take a firm stance against intimidation and disrespect to our volunteers and citizens. The survey is important for feedback alone to allow everyone's voices to be heard
- ix) Tizz requested the Conservation Commission ordinance copy be included in the agenda materials for the August meeting (who's agenda materials?)
- d) LA Trails and Mt. Apatite Group
  - i) Rhyanna provided typed list of updates via email listed below:
    - (1) We are working on some fundraiser events to assist with trail maintenance and sponsored community education walks. As well as getting money for new Kiosk to be placed at Small road entrance.
    - (2) We are reviewing the Joint Land Use Study suggestions and working on a few items
    - (3) We placed new signage up on a few of the trails
    - (4) We have had a few groups working on the drainage and trail maintenance for the new signature trail
    - (5) We are working closely with the snowmobile club "Snow Gypsies" and the clubhouse area
    - (6) We are working on changing the main entrance to the Small road side – to avoid the National Guard area and the ball fields
    - (7) We placed a port-a-potty up at the end of the small road and we will be placing a trash receptacle there soon. (we need to cement it down or something, so it's not vandalized)

- (8) Working with the City, to see if we can get the end of the Small road leveled out for more parking. (currently that is the grassy unmowed area but it has a dirt pile in the middle too)
  - (9) There has already been some vandalized brand new signs, some that were even torn off the tree.
  - (10) Group is now meeting at the Snow mobile club houses 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm. Next meeting is July 23<sup>rd</sup>. (They have not typed up the meeting minutes from the last one)
  - (11) LA Trails met on July 15th. There will be a public LA Trails meeting on July 17th at 5:30pm at Lost Valley.
  - (12) Any funding for Friends of Mt. Apatite group will fall under Auburn Parks and Rec Dept.
  - ii) Tizz motioned adding links to ALT and Friends of Mt. Apatite, LACC, Snow Gypsies to “useful links” section on Conservation Commission webpage. Rhyanna seconded, unanimously voted.
- 6) New Business/Commissioner Comments
- a) Discuss roles and duties of members spearheading certain issues
  - b) The Conservation Commission meetings have been moved back to the community room and will no longer be video recorded. An audio recording device is available upon request.
    - i) Sam to follow up on recordings for minutes moving forward. Tony to take audio recording device, Tizz will request if the city can give us a file copy of the recording and send it to the commission. In the case the city does not provide this service, a commissioner will take the device and download the recording.
    - ii) Sam motions to create official response in regard to the change in meeting location and video recording. Jordan seconded, unanimously voted.
  - c) Start a strategic plan
  - d) Two vacancies that need to be filled on the Conservation Commission
    - i) Tizz suggests to take the alternate member suggestion from the ordinance changes and resubmit to City Council
- 7) Adjourn: Jordan Tate motioned to table all other new business to the August meeting, Tizz seconded, unanimously voted. Ended at 8:16pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jordan Tate, Chair

Next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2019 in the Community Room at 6pm