

Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board Minutes
March 19, 2015
Lewiston Public Works Conference Room



Members present: Rick Shea, Jay Braunscheidel, Dave Griswold, John Butler, Suzanne Boucher, Zam Zam Mohamud, Paul Madore, Dan Bilodeau

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes of February were approved.

Funding Requests from Lewiston

Megan Bates, Deputy Director of the Lewiston Public Department, sent two funding requests to the board. Five thousand dollars to buy trees for the city's "50/50 Program" and the "Tree Replacement Program" were requested. Also two thousand four hundred forty dollars were requested to train public works tree crews to become certified line clearance arborists. Rick made motion to "Fully fund both requests". Seconded by Dan. Dave amended the motion to "Maximize the 50/50 part of plantings to the extent it was possible". Seconded by Paul. This was discussed and passed. Jay also amended the motion to "Any money not spent would be returned to the Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board account." This was discussed and passed. The original motion was discussed and passed. Discussion included concerns about spending so much of the account when there would not be any income for seven to ten years. It was suggested that the LACFB set up a ten year budget during the September meeting.

Tree Nursery and Project Canopy Grant

Steve has received the Project Canopy Grant in the amount of approximately \$8000. Lewiston is looking at the wording that gives the city an easement to the harvesting that would take place in the future. He has met and discussed the grant with Dennis and other members of Auburn Public Works. They were very supportive and will continue to meet with Steve to work out how the two cities can cooperate to bring the tree nursery to life. Steve would like to plant 260 bare root whips during the time frame of the grant. That would create up to \$45,000 in one to two inch tree stock in 7-10 years. Steve explained how "Grow Bags" would allow the trees to be dug without an expensive spade. Dan, Rick, and Steve will meet next week as a Nursery Subcommittee to hash out details and set a time-line to move forward. Board members will be needed to participate to create the necessary volunteer hours. The following days are already planned:

May 19th Students from Edward Little HS working at the nursery for the Community Work June 6th- "Trails Day" at Lake Auburn Community Center **June 17th** Proctor and Gamble 20-30 workers. Please consider attending.

Arbor Week Activities

•**Tree City USA**-The third week in May is Arbor Week in Maine (May 17th - 23rd). This will be the twelfth year each city will receive this honor.

•**Banner**-John looked into a placement across a street in Lewiston for free. The city will not place a banner like this because of liability issues. Paul would like the banner to get good public access even if it requires money from the board to get the banner up. Steve has the banner and will look for a place near the "Farmers' Market" just before the Main Street Bridge. Rick will get the correct numbers for the Arbor Week dates from Pepsi.

•**May Meeting**-It was suggested that the May meeting be held at the Lake Auburn Community Center. A celebration of trees with snacks and news coverage could take place. All of these events and the Canopy Grant should get publicity.

•**TD Bank Tree Giveaway**-Steve has a supplier for white spruce saplings. They are available at \$1.70 per plant. Rick had contacted Jan Santerre and she thought she could also get some for us. Rick made a motion to get money from our Auburn Tree Board Account for 100 saplings from Steve's supplier. Seconded by John and approved by board. Dave will contact a person at TD Bank and find out about what would be necessary to pass out to either TD bank employees or customers.

•**Tree Book Purchase**-Dave found out that both city's libraries already have copies of American Canopy. This is a great read that explores the history of the United States and the critical role trees have played at each step.

City of Auburn's Conservation Commission (CC)

The City of Auburn is now taking applications to the newly created Conservation Commission. **Conservation Commission** (this is a new committee with 7 positions to fill - 3 with a term expiration of 6/1/2016, 2 with a term expiration of 6/1/2017, and 2 with a term expiration of 6/1/2018). **The deadline to submit applications to the City Clerk is 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

LAWPC Management Plan

There will be a hearing on April 28 at CMCC and another one on May 2nd with the location to be announced.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 PM by unanimous vote.

Next meeting is April 16th (3rd Thursday of the month) at 7:00 pm. The location is to be determined.