

Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board

Minutes



Thursday, January 17th, 2013
Auburn City Hall Conference Room

Members present: Jay Braunscheidel, Richard Shea, Dave Griswold, Dan Bilodeau, Bruce Damon, Doug Boyd

Members absent: Steve Murch, Paula Masselli, Scott Riccio
Visitor-Scott Hatch

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of December were approved.

Lewiston Ordinance Tree Cutting Appeal

A citizen in Lewiston and her son has asked for a reconsideration of the arborist's decision not to cut down a tree that she believes is interfering with the sewer drainage of her house. They also asked for a delay until May when the son will be back in Lewiston. We will make them aware that we have scheduled a hearing for May 17, 2013 at Lewiston City Hall at 4:00 pm. To be able to make an informed decision in the case, the board would like a site map showing the location of the tree and the pipe, the type and age of the pipe, and a brief description of the resident's reason for the appeal. We believe the citizen should be sent a copy of the city ordinance and a sample board meeting format.

The hearing will be conducted along the guidelines of hearings of the other city boards. The entire board (as long as there are two members from each city) will hear and vote on the appeal. The board would need the city arborist there to represent the city's side. Curt Webber will act as an advisor to the board.

TD Bank Grant

With just two weeks to submit a complicated application members we are doubtful that we could pull together all of the required components for Auburn. Not having a city staff supporting the board and not having access to a grant writer may be too much to overcome. Jay will talk to Jonathan LaBonte (Mayor) and Bruce will talk to Clint(city Manager) about these concerns. Rick will check with the Auburn School Department to see if maybe the school grant writer would be interested and have the time to apply. There are nature trails and school grounds that would benefit from this grant.

Steve is working on the grant on the Lewiston side. Rick will get some of the details of his grant and check to see if an Auburn application affects his chances.

Project Canopy Grant

Steve has received the Project Canopy grant for the nature trail at McMahon School. Steve doesn't need to meet with Jan because he has carried out many of these already. The water district has also received a grant. To become better educated about the Project Canopy Grant workings Rick will contact Jan to see if he can attend her meeting with them. Bruce will contact Dave Jones to find out more about their grant. Rick will continue to meet with Steve to help oversee the McMahon School implementation.

Tree Nursery

Dan has received the results of the soil samples from the land at the Lake Auburn Community Center. He has also corresponded with Dr. Lois Berg Stack, Extension Specialist, Ornamental Horticulture; and Professor, Sustainable Agriculture University of Maine. The Lake Auburn Community Center has earmarked \$2000 to get the tree nursery up and running. We are looking to a fall planting schedule after doing more research as to what trees to plant. Dave brought up that the Arbor Day Foundation membership includes ten free fruit trees. It was also mentioned that in the past the city has planted many ash, oak, and fruit trees. Dave want to be sure that we consider the tree pests that are heading this way before making a decision. The nursery will need the board members to work on watering, limb and grass trimming, etc.. Everyone present indicated their willingness to help.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce still needs to hear from Heather Hunter about the money raised from the Forest Management Plan in Lewiston. We would like to make a tentative budget and find out if there are any future cutting being planned in Lewiston.

Tree City USA Application

Steve is working on the Lewiston application. Jay has found that the applications have changed and are much more detailed. Rick and Dave helped Jay after the meeting to fill in a few of the sections. Jay will continue. He may contact Jan to get her thoughts on the Auburn TCUSA Growth Award. Do we need to strengthen the application in order to successfully compete for the award?

Auburn Ordinance Update

At the last Auburn City Council workshop the city councilors asked for copies of the ordinance and the city staff said they would be reviewing it. We are worried that as the budget season gets going it will be put on the back burner. Jay will check with the city manager and Dave and Dan will talk to Councilor Crowley about moving it forward.

LACFB by-Laws Update

While we have sections in the Strategic Plan and Tree Ordinance of how the board should operate, they need to be worked into a more formal and complete document. Rick and Dave were appointed to work on them and bring a rough draft to the board at the March meeting so they can be approved and printed for Arbor Week 2013.

Next meeting: February 21, 2013 TBD Meeting adjourned 8:23 PM by unanimous vote