

Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board

Minutes

Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board Minutes
June 13, 2013
Auburn City Hall Conference Room



Members present: Richard Shea, Dave Griswold, Jay Braunscheidel, Dan Bilodeau, Jim Sorcek, Bruce Damon

Guest present: Councilor Tizz Crowley, Councilor Leroy Walker, Mike Marcotte, Stavros Mendros

Members absent: Paula Masselli, Scott Riccio,

Meeting called to order at 7:14 p.m.

Minutes of May were discussed and approved with a few changes

Treasurer's Report

Rick was required to pay \$100 to the city of Auburn for the banner permit otherwise the city clerk would have given the week to another group. Rick will get paperwork to Bruce and he will get the reimbursement.

Membership Discussion

With the question about a lack of quorum at the ordinance appeal it is important that we get membership of the board up. Rick will contact Paula to tell her that we are going to look for a replacement appointment by the mayor for her position. Scott will be removed from voting member of the board to "Friend of the Board" as he has requested.

Lewiston Ordinance Appeal

The appeal was held at Lewiston City Hall on Friday May 17th at 4:00 pm. There were two motions. "Motion to uphold the arborist's decision not to remove the tree at city expense" was passed unanimously. "Motion to issue a permit to take down a tree at 13 Brown St. at the owner's expense" failed to pass as the vote was 2-2. Dr. Roux has since sent a letter to the city saying he believes the vote was not legal because of a lack of a quorum and would like us to reconsider and grant him a permit to cut the tree down. We believed we had a quorum because Steve Murch is a member of the board and made up the fifth member. But rather than argue we decided to reconsider the vote. Dave made the motion to reconsider. Seconded by Dan. Motion passed 6-0. Bruce made a motion to table the vote until our next regular meeting which will be held on July 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm at Auburn City Hall Conference Room. The motion was seconded by Dave and passed 6-0. Jay will make Mr. Roux aware of this meeting.

Arbor Week Activities May 19-25 in Maine

1. The State of Maine Arbor Week and Tree City USA Celebration took place in Auburn this year at the Hilton Garden Inn. Auburn and Lewiston were awarded Tree City USA for 10 years. They also received the “Growth Award” for the first time.
2. Rick and Doug Boyd planted fir trees for the Rotary tree sale.
3. Dan, Jay, Rick, Jim, and a number of members of the Lake Auburn Community Group planted a dozen trees at the LACC property.

Auburn Ordinance Update

It would take two readings at a city council meeting. The first reading was tabled due to the length of the city council meeting on June 3rd. It should take place on June 17th. Tizz believes we should do more to educate the board and the citizens of Auburn as to what a “Community Forest” is. Dan found this description- “A community forest protects scenic, natural and historic landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and sustain communities. A healthy community forest promotes economic, environmental and aesthetic values contributing to the quality of life in the community.” Leroy believes that our board should have a partnership/awareness with each of the city departments and city boards that have anything to do with the community forest.

It was suggested that we attend the Parks and Recreation Board on July 10th and ask to be on their agenda. The school department’s plan to cut at East Auburn School was mentioned when the East Auburn Men’s Club brought it to Tizz’s attention. There is no doubt that we as a board need to educate the public as to the purpose and accomplishments of the board.

Board members have been discouraged by past attempts to get publicity. Sun Journal, Twin City Times, Turner Publishing, Uncle Andy’s, and L/A Alerts were all mentioned as possible places that might work better.

Next meeting will be Thursday July 18th at 7:00 pm at Auburn City Hall Conference Room

Meeting adjourned 8:48 PM by unanimous vote