



# Auburn, Maine

Conservation Commission

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210

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## Conservation Commission Annual Report

June 2018 - June 2019

### I. Members include:

- A. Chair: Jordan Tate
- B. Vice Chair: Rhyanna Larose
- C. Commissioners: Tizz Crowley, Maurice Keene, Johnna Flood, Ben Low. Shelley Norton left the Commission in September 2018. Sam Boss was appointed to the Commission in May 2019. Ben Low completed his term in June 2019. Johnna Flood resigned in June 2019.
- D. Staff Support: Tony Beaulieu
- E. Meetings are held in the Community Room and are recorded on a camcorder, videos are posted online for public viewing.

### II. Conservation Commission Review

- A. The Conservation Commission was asked to assign one member of the Commission to the Mayoral Action Group for the Agriculture and Resource Protection Zone
  - 1. Maurice Keene
  - 2. Active from October 2018 through February 2019
  - 3. The Conservation Commission submitted two letters of concern during the process (attach in report). The Conservation Commission was ignored throughout the process with no response from the City Council on either letter of concern (received response from the mayor on the first letter), and had to contact the City Clerk (twice) to ensure the Conservation Commission was sent the draft ordinance per the memo by the Mayor (once to get on the City Council Agenda to authorize the action and again once we had not received the draft but planning board had)
  - 4. Hosted a group of Bates Students who presented research on the AGRP use and zoning history from the mid 80s to present
- B. Created definitions for working group versus subcommittee
- C. Created draft task roles for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
- D. Went before City Council in January to request permission to submit another pre-proposal for grant to remove Littlefield Dam. Ultimately missed the deadline

1. The City Manager discussed potentially working in the financial matching portion of the grant into the fiscal budget prior to applying for the next grant.
  - E. Oversaw work to complete the Project Canopy Grant to finish the street tree inventory
    1. Dave Griswold volunteered his time as a match for the grant, identifying street trees and updating the GIS inventory
  - F. Rhyanna Larose attended the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions annual conference in April 2019
- III. Subcommittee Reviews
- A. Parks Subcommittee
    1. Tizz Crowley continued to serve on the parks subcommittee and expressed concern over advertising vacancies due to low attendance at parks meetings.
    2. A cemeteries group was started under parks subcommittee
    3. The chair attended a meeting in March with Phil Crowell and members of the Parks and Rec Advisory Board to discuss the overlap between the two. The chair provided a history of the Conservation Commission Parks Subcommittee, explaining that it was created in a time when the advisory board was inactive and there was a void. However, the Parks and Rec Advisory Board has become active again and the Parks Subcommittee membership has dwindled. The Conservation Commission suggested possibly dissolving the parks subcommittee and assigning a liaison to the advisory board to avoid redundancy of work and silos.
  - B. Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board
    1. Auburn received a Tree City USA award for the 16th year in a row.
    2. Successful full Arbor week of activities around the city
    3. Made displays in city hall for the Maine Arbor Week.
    4. Finished the grant that was received from Project Canopy to make the tree inventory of Auburn's street trees, and this was uploaded to the city website using the GIS system.
    5. Continued planting, mowing, weeding, and caring for the 300+ seedlings at the nursery at Lake Auburn's Community Center.
    6. Hosted a free information session with the Public on the Browntail moth in January.
    7. Hosted a free information session with the public on Sustainable Forestry Initiatives Workshop and guided walk at Pettengill Park in May of last year.
    8. Updated the old comprehensive plan and created new sections of the Auburn Public Woodlot Management Plan.
    9. Took part in several tree plantings within the city in Pettengill Park and South Main Street.
  - C. Trails

1. The Conservation Commission established a trails workgroup in the fall of 2018, with the objective of bringing together various trail groups including private landowners to determine locations and accepted uses of all trails in Auburn. Ben Low was the “champion” of the Trails Workgroup.
2. After the initial 90 day period, it was learned that the Androscoggin Land Trust (ALT) had a group called LA Trails that had a similar initiative. It was inactive but discussions about resuming LA Trails lead the Commission to not continue to Trails Workgroup and instead to become involved in LA Trails.
3. LA Trails met once but remained inactive until April 2019. The ALT released LA Trails from their ownership so that they could operate and meet independently.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jordan Tate-Chair