

**City of Auburn
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016 - 6:00 pm**

Chairman Pete Preble brought the meeting to order.

Members Present: Tizz Crowley; Maurice Keene; Chuck Lafean, Pete Preble, Bob Sipe, Jordan Tate, Nichole White-Matson

Others Present: Lynne Richards, LAWPC and Tony Beaulieu, City Engineer

1. Minutes

Under 4. Old Business. Ordinance Action by Council. Add "Woodlot".

ACTION: Motion made by Tizz Crowley seconded by Jordan Tate to accept the minutes of 2-16-16 with changes. The motion was approved. Chuck Lafean abstained.

2. Subcommittee Reports

Parks Subcommittee

Bob Sipe reported that Sabrina Best, the new Recreation Director, attended their last meeting and that she is wonderful. She is very energetic, patient, has a lot of good ideas, and believes in collaboration and implementation. He received an email from her and she plans to attend the next meeting as well. The Parks Subcommittee requested permission to maintain a parks workgroup through December and asked Tony Beaulieu to book a room through the end of the year.

There was discussion about the Lewiston-Auburn Bike Ped Committee and how to encourage them to be more interactive with other groups to help prevent duplicating efforts. There was also discussion regarding multi use surfaces, trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes and how to define each of them.

ACTION: Maurice Keene seconded by Jordan Tate moved to explore options for common definitions and language for multi use surfaces, trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes. The vote was unanimously approved.

LACFB Update

Jordan Tate reported that the Forest Board adopted the Strategic Plan for the upcoming five years, they were updated on the complications the Conservation Commission is having communicating with the city, the woodlot ordinance is going to be discussed tomorrow at the Transportation & Environment Committee meeting, and they focused on plans for Tree City USA Arbor Week.

There was discussion regarding the banner for Arbor Week. Concern was expressed that the city charges their committees to hang the banners. They had several questions: (1) If the

banner is for Arbor Week, is the Conservation Commission going to support celebrating Arbor Week in the City of Auburn? (2) If a banner is going to be used, does the City of Auburn want to buy one or get one sponsored? (3) What is the policy of the City of Auburn for sponsors and if it is allowed what is the guideline? (4) Where can they put the banner (Maine Street?). (5). If we do not allow sponsorship how does the city get around it at the Ice Arena? It was suggested to have the city arborist who is a member of the Forest Board put up the banner to save money.

3. Public Comments: None

4. Old Business

Lynne Richards – Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Lynne Richards the LAWPC Education and Outreach Manager said LAWPC has oversight of about 2,000 acres around the lake and has been working on a Lands Management Plan. She will send the Conservation Commission the draft plan in PDF file. The first week in May is Drinking Water Week and Lakes Week is in June. The next LAWPC meeting is April 13th at 3:30 pm at AVCOG. A member of the Conservation Commission will probably attend to introduce themselves.

Updates on Project Canopy and TD Bank Grant Applications

Bids will be opened for a contractor to do the work on March 22.

Woodlot Ordinance – Transportation & Environment Committee Meeting March 16, 2016

The Woodlot Ordinance is being discussed at the Transportation & Environment Committee meeting tomorrow night at 5:30 pm. Dave Griswold plans to be there. Members were encouraged to attend to show support.

Barker Mill Dam Relicensing – Economic & Community Committee Meeting March 17, 2016

The Barker Mill Dam Relicensing will be discussed at the Council Economic & Community Development Committee meeting on March 17. Pete Preble plans to attend to find out what may be going on with River Day. Nichole White-Matson also plans to attend.

5. New Business

Priority Projects

Pete Preble met with the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Mayor to discuss communication. They thought the Conservation Commission should bring forth what they want to work on for priority projects and left it to up to them to decide what that will be. Discussion on what projects is a priority was tabled to the next meeting. All members were asked to brainstorm a list of projects. They will go through minutes to see what they talked about, reach out to Planning & Permitting and the community on what they think is priority projects, and the Transportation and Environment Committee to see what they see as policy priorities. Other suggestions were to contact other communities that have Conservation Commissions to see what kind of projects they are working on and the list of projects on the Maine conservation group website. *Pete will email Councilor Young to ask for input from the policy committee.*

Tony Beaulieu was asked to find out what Planning and Permitting thinks is important and to request a post be put on the website Say It feature asking for input from the community.

6. **Other**

Policies and Procedures Update - None

Annual Report Update - None

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Information that was accumulated over the course of the month was put in the agenda packet. The city clerk prepared a list of members and their expiration dates. Bob Sipe, Jordan Tate, and Pete Preble's terms expire in June. *Pete will send the list to Tammy to include in the minutes. Tony was asked to request the openings be posted.*

There is not enough time to do anything for Earth Day this year, but they will plan to address it earlier for next year.

Tony was asked to see if there is training on freedom of access and record keeping.

The next meeting is April 19 at 6:00 p.m.

7. **Adjourn**

ACTION: Jordan Tate seconded by Nichole White-Matson moved to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Submitted by:
Tammy Thatcher