



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Commission

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Minutes - Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Called to order at 6:15 via Zoom

1) Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Sam Boss, Jane Costlow, Rhyanna Larose, Tizz Crowley

Commissioners Absent: Michelle Melaragno (excused), Amy Dieterich (excused), Ian Campbell

Guests – Dave Griswold (Community Forest Board Chair)

2) Review and approve March minutes.

Sam moved to accept as presented; Rhyanna seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

3) Public Comment - none

4) Work Completed/Updates. Commissioners report on work completed on their identified areas of focus.

- a) Rhyanna – reported that she had talked with Dag's Bait and Tackle about a fishing event for the last weekend of June or first weekend of July (most other weekends in June are already taken by fishing events). Rhyanna will get back to the commission on the date once it's finalized. Several locations are being discussed, including the mouth of the Little Andy; and off of Washington Street behind the American Legion. Sam asked about liability issues that might arise with city-sponsored events. Commissioners agreed it would be important to look into, and find out what city policy/coverage is more broadly, and what waiver might already exist for people to sign.
- b) There was a brief debrief about Walk in the Park, and hopes that next year there might be increased numbers participating.

5) Work in Progress

- a) Planning for Earth Day Clean-Ups to be held on April 24 at 10 am: Commissioners discussed which neighborhoods will be involved, and who will be the point person for each location. Sam encouraged everyone to take pictures, which we can send to Liz. Scott Hollins, Deputy Director of Auburn Public Works, will be supplying bags and other materials and has been very helpful.
- b) Endangered Species Legislation: Jane presented her findings about Salmon and the MESA. There was discussion and input from commissioners, considering both the pros and cons of maintaining focus on Auburn specifically, versus awareness of ways in which Auburn has to be connected to regional environmental issues. Jane suggested reaching out to Eric to talk about Little Andy and how we might work on that as an issue. No vote was taken on whether to support the legislation.
- c) Strategic priorities for the summer: Sam introduced the possibility of having a retreat during the summer to give the commissioners time to discuss broader issues and how our work might be focused, including the role of the commission in discussions of zoning, or in thinking about how ecological issues shape the planning process in Auburn.
- d) Conservation Commission logo. Jane made a Motion to approve light green logo, with the suggestion that the phrase should read “No Steps Backward” and we might ask Liz to reduce the number of fish in the image. Tizz seconded. Roll Call passed unanimously. The logo will be forwarded to City Council for review and approval.

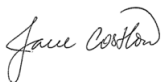
6) Subcommittee/Related Interests Updates

- a) Community Forest Subcommittee Update (Dave Griswold). The Forest Board met last week, with few members in attendance. Sam, Carissa and Dave have been working on displays for the story walk, which will be delivered to Sabrina by 4/28. Council will pass resolution on Arbor Week. As yet there is no word on the Washington St. planning grant – hoping to hear in first half of May. Recreation will put out a press release on the Story Walk; the Board is planning a booth at Lewiston and Auburn Farmers’ Markets.
- b) Parks/Cemeteries Subcommittee Update (Tizz Crowley). The Commission would like to thank Dave Griswold, Joanne Sabourin, Mary Lafontaine and Leroy Walker for hosting walks on National Take a Walk in the Park Day. Tizz also noted that it would be wonderful to get a picture of the Commissioners at Oak Hill Cemetery planter in connection with Memorial Day.
- c) Sam reported that he has had no update on the proposal to change the city’s Committee structure.

May meeting: plan to still meet on Zoom.

Jane made a motion to adjourn; Tizz seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:07.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Costlow (Secretary)