



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Commission

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

Minutes

August 17, 2021 - (Senior Community Center)

Meeting Called to order by Sam Boss at 6:05

Roll Call & Introductions

Commissioners Present: Sam Boss, Adam Platz, Jane Costlow, Dave Griswold, Amy Dieterich, Kryston Chapman, Rhyanna LaRose (remote)

Commissioners Absent: none

Guests: Kathy Shaw, Chair of Ag Committee

Approval of minutes.

Amy moved and Sam seconded approving minutes from the June meeting. They were unanimously approved by those who had been present at the June meeting. The Commissioners anticipate reviewing and approving May minutes at the September meeting.

Updates/work completed

1. Sam: we are now members of the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. Payment of dues was approved by the city, which authorized ongoing payment year by year.

2. Dave gave a brief report on the Forest Board, which did not meet in July. Dave noted ongoing concerns about brown tail moth.

Work in Progress

1. a) Goal setting & planning discussion. Sam read through the Commission charge for a reminder of what our various responsibilities are. There was conversation about the charge

to create and maintain an index of open lands in Auburn. Kathy Shaw suggested we begin by creating a list of publicly-accessible open space. (Parks, cemeteries, snowmobile trails, conservation land, etc.) She suggested that Karen Scammon (Auburn Tax Assessor) may have a list of people who have already put land into public access easements. Dave suggested reaching out to Phil to make sure that we can approach Rosemary so that her time spent on the project is approved and appreciated. Sam suggested we shoot for having the open space list by November. Amy moved and Sam seconded a motion to establish a working group (Adam and Jane) on the open space list. Unanimously passed.

2. Jane suggested developing a calendar for the year's activities. Dave noted that the forest board might plan a pruning workshop for the fall, with a brown tail event in the spring. It would be possible to bring in people from the state who are experts to guide workshops. Adam suggested the CC could partner with Baxter Brewing for the Appatite Trail Run. Commissioners discussed the possibility of having T-shirts with the CC logo for sale, with donations to go to the Forest Board. Kathy suggested that the Soil and Water Commission (Challenger Ave) are great people to collaborate with.

3. The Commissioners discussed the topic of invasives as a potential focus for the year's outreach. Sam had circulated a link to case studies from the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions, and the Yarmouth case study was suggested as an excellent one

to look at. Commissioners agreed on the following action item for September: think about what we might do on this topic, and post ideas and relevant materials at a google document to be set up.

Collaborations with other Boards and Committees.

Kathy Shaw spoke about how the Auburn Agriculture Committee and the Conservation Commission might collaborate. She suggested working together on events, links to trails, invasive species, as a way of getting citizens more focused on preserving natural resources. The Ag Committee is planning a series of speakers each month, bringing in experts who can provide good baselines of information to inform questions about conservation and rezoning.. The Ag Committee's next meeting will take place August 31 at the Senior Center, beginning at 5:30. Karen Scammon (city assessor) will make a presentation on zoning, housing values and tax assessment.

Honoring past members: Maurice Keene and Tizz Crowley. Commissioners noted that we should present formal commendations to the City Council to

honor the work of both of these retired commissioners.

Subcommittee/Related Interests Updates

1. Parks/Cemeteries - Sam suggested that while this has been a sub-committee of Conservation Commission, it has been an awkward fit, because there is also a separate Parks and Rec committee. Dave suggested that the work undertaken on the open space index may help us understand what the best connection would be between the Conservation Commission and the Parks. Commissioners decided to leave as is for the time being. There was nothing to report.

Dave made motion to adjourn, seconded by Kryston. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

The next meeting will be September 21 at 6:00, at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Costlow, Secretary