



# City of Auburn

## Conservation Commission

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210

[www.auburnmaine.gov](http://www.auburnmaine.gov) | 207.333.6601

### **Minutes - Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

#### **Called to order at 6:02 pm (via Zoom)**

#### 1) Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Sam Boss, Jane Costlow, Rhyanna Larose, Amy Dieterich.  
Commissioners Absent: Tizz Crowley (excused), Michelle Melaragno (excused).  
Guests— Chris Carson, Dave Griswold (Community Forest Board), Ed Friedman, Emily Bastion.

2) Rhyanna moved to approve the January meeting minutes as submitted; Amy seconded.  
Unanimous on a roll call vote.

#### 3) Public Comment.

Ed Friedman (Friends of Merrymeeting Bay) and Emily Bastion (Native Fish Coalition) had been invited by Sam to join us for this portion of the meeting, to discuss collaborative efforts in support of a bill to expand protections for Salmon on inland waters. Ed and Emily briefly introduced their organizations. Emily gave a presentation explaining background to the bill being advocated for (LR 846).

In response to Sam's asking about what would be helpful from the Commissioners, Emily suggested they would welcome a statement of support. She also noted that hearings are open to the public, and that constituents who are concerned could speak/write as private citizens. The group is also looking for additional co-sponsors on the legislation and hoping for bi-partisan support.

Sam thanked Ed and Emily for their presentation.

#### 4) Work Completed/Updates.

a) Commissioners reported on work completed on their identified areas of focus.

Rhyanna: Given a particularly busy month at work, she will have a fuller update in March.

Jane: Sent the links to other conservation organizations agreed on at the January meeting to Liz at City Hall. They are now on our City Page; she has also populated the shared google Calendar with relevant dates, and reminded Commissioners that because this is a shared calendar anyone can do this.

Amy: In the wake of this evening's presentation Amy suggested it might be useful to have one of us keep an eye on upcoming bills (for example, reclassification of the Androscoggin, ESA and MESA). Amy expressed a willingness to do this, and noted that it matches her skill set. There was enthusiastic response from Commissioners. Amy will report back in March on specific ideas. Sam noted the possibility of reaching out to nearby conservation commissions in other communities (particularly on matters of shared concern). Rhyanna recommended Poland (she mentioned that there had been some interaction in the past), and Sam noted that Durham also has a Conservation Commission.

Sam: Sent feedback on committee restructuring to city staff. Met with Sabrina Best and Sean Seary (LAWPC) regarding a project that would result in linking up trails in Auburn. Berry Farm previous owner had promised to permit access, but waiting to see what current owners will say.

b) Winter Fest Tree/Bird ID Walk Debrief. Well attended (Dave noted that this was the best attended of any tree walk I've done! Approximately 12 people).

## 5) Work in Progress

a) Dave reported on planning for Arbor Week events, coordinating with the City Council and Mayor about both Arbor Week and the Tree City designation. The Forest Board is also looking at possible outreach at Farmers' Markets, and will use River Walk Story Walk kiosks for the month of May.

Sam opened conversation about the possibility of a City-wide yard sale prior to Bulk Trash Day (which is extremely costly for the city). Rhyanna pointed out that bulk trash and hazardous pickup are both safety-health and also conservation issues. Commissioners wondered if there might be a way to work with elderly and others for whom it's difficult to dispose of hazardous waste? Sam offered to start a google doc to collect information on existing disposal systems. There may be a Bates student who could pull some of that together for sharing on social media.

b) There was brief discussion of the proposed logos. Commissioners gathered thoughts on the proposed designs, wondering if there's a way to make an image that more specifically references Auburn. The possibility of working with design students either at CMCC or Edward Little was raised. There was general agreement of the worth of having a logo as part of becoming more visible and "branding" the work of the Commission.

c) Vote on appointment of new member to Community Forest Subcommittee. Dave moved to appoint Carissa Aoki to Community Forest Subcommittee; Jane seconded. Unanimous approval on a roll call vote.

d) Recruitment of new members. Jane reported that she had reached out to Kim Finnerty, science teacher at Edward Little who formerly managed Whiting Farm. Jane will

reach out to someone at CMCC to see if they might have suggestions about interested potential Commissioners.

6) Subcommittee/Related Interests Updates

a) Dave reported briefly on the Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board, noted that he's encouraged with where the Board is going, there are new members coming on. The Board has received Endorsement to apply for Project Canopy grant (deadline March 12), which would fund planting trees on Washington Street. They will look to Steve Murch for suggestions on particular species. The Board reviewed the planning priorities set for 2020 – 2025 in the previous Strategic Plan.

b) Parks/Cemeteries. No update.

c) Updates on relevant community partners' work. None.

7) New Business and Upcoming Agenda Items. None

8) Upcoming Events. None noted.

Jane made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rhyanna. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:03.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will take place on March 16 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Costlow".

Jane Costlow (Secretary)