



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Commission

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Minutes - Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Called to order at 6:02 p.m. at Auburn City Hall Community Room

1) Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Sam Boss, Dave Griswold, Amy Dieterich, Adam Platz, Jane Costlow

Commissioners Absent: Kryston Chapman, Rhyanna Larose (excused)

Guests—Kathy Shaw, Chris Carson

2) Review and approve October minutes of the Conservation Commission. Dave moved, Amy seconded and unanimous in approval.

3) Follow up conversation about Lewiston Falls stakeholders meeting and Nov. 4 informational meeting with Brookfield and discussion of next steps:

- Sam provided a summary of the recent meetings of stakeholders and with Brookfield regarding the relicensing of these dams, including an offer by Brookfield to conduct tours of the dam.
- The Commission discussed convening another meeting with the stakeholders to discuss study requests, which are due in January 2022. Sam is going to reach out and convene a meeting with the goal of coordinating some of the study requests.

4) Review and discussion of PFAS Investigation: The Commission discussed the recent letter received by the City of Auburn from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The Commission will monitor the results of the investigation with the goal of participating in an effort with the Ag Committee to discuss the results when they are available. Kathy said that she will reach out to Phil Crowell to ask him to keep us updated.

5) Updates and Planning

- a) Open Space Index Working Group Update (Jane, Adam): Jane and Adam have been in touch with the City of Auburn, and Jane has been in conversation with a professor at Bates to see if there may be interest in students working on this task.
- b) Little Androscoggin Working Group Update (Rhyanna, Sam): Sam provided the group with a copy of a study from Bates about recreational opportunities on the Little Androscoggin.

c) Education/Youth Outreach (Amy): Amy reported on conversations she has been having with a local school and farm regarding some educational opportunities involving the Commission and the Community Forest Board. The goal will be to organize some opportunities for local schools to do experiential learning.

c) Invasive Species events for the winter (Dave): Dave spoke about work he is doing to convene a talk on invasive species this winter that would possibly be a mix of in person and/or remote.

6) Subcommittee/Related Interests Updates

a) Community Forest Subcommittee Update: Dave provided a brief update on the Subcommittee's work relating to a project to make a list of notable trees in Auburn and explore having Auburn meet the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard.

b) Updates on relevant community partners' work: conversation with Poland Conservation Commission Chair (Sam): Sam reported on a positive conversation about partnering with the Poland Conservation Commission on the Little Androscoggin, which borders Poland as well. Sam reported that they may also have good information and resources about open source indices, as they have created one as well.

c) Adam brought up exploring opportunities to market Commission activities at the upcoming Winterfest and Baxter Outdoors duathlon or on the course.

Jane made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will take place on December 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Room in City Hall

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Dieterich