



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Commission

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Minutes - Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Called to order at 6:04 p.m. at Auburn Senior Community Center

1) Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Sam Boss, Dave Griswold, Rhyanna Larose, Amy Dieterich
Commissioners Absent: Jane Costlow, Kryston Chapman, Adam Platz

Guests– Peter Rubins (Grow L+A), Eric Cousens (City of Auburn), Dana Staples and Kathy Shaw

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

3) Presentation by Director of Planning and Permitting, Eric Cousens about FERC licensing process for Great Falls, Upper Barker Dams, followed by Q&A and brainstorming discussion:

- Eric provided an overview of the process and status of the licensing processes for the listed dams. Holly Lasagna and Belinda Gerry are the Councilors who are the point people for the expenditure of ARPA funds, along with the Mayor, for the use of funds for recreational purposes, which could be connected with this process.
- Peter provided some background about what Grow L+A is doing to advocate for the communities around the Androscoggin River. Peter also provided some information around how to advocate for the reclassification of the River from Class C to Class B. The Board of Environmental Protection is holding public comments on Thurs., Oct 7, at 9am in Augusta, and electronic comments are due by Oct. 25, 5pm. Peter also mentioned that next October (2022) is the 50-year anniversary of the Clean Water Act, and there are opportunities to publicize the tremendous improvement of the Androscoggin River over the years and Ed Muskie's pivotal role in this landmark legislation.
- The Commissioners discussed supporting and being involved in the relicensing processes and encouragement of recreation and conservation along these waterways. Amy moved for Conservation Commission to file comments in support of the reclassification of the Androscoggin River, which will be submitted for approval of the specific verbiage at the next meeting. Sam seconded. Unanimous in favor
- The Commissioners discussed organizing and mobilizing groups in the L/A area to support and be involved as stakeholders in the dam relicensing processes, as well as to work collaboratively with Lewiston on this process. The stakeholders would brainstorm

ideas, including funding for legal advice if needed, a joint meeting or resolve to cooperate between the two cities, engaging in the public so we know who is interested in river recreation, etc.

4) Subcommittee/Related Interests Updates

a) Community Forest Subcommittee Update: Dave provided a brief update on the Subcommittee's work relating to a pruning workshop and a Riverwalk display involving invasive species.

Rhyanna made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 7:37

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will take place on October 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Room in City Hall

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Dieterich