



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Working Group

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Minutes - October 18 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 at the Community Room, Auburn City Hall

1) Roll Call of Conservation Working Group members

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

Commissioners Absent: Rhyanna Larose, Amy Dieterich

Guests: Dana Staples

2) Approved September minutes

3) Updates & Discussion

SNRB and related Working Group.

Jane and Dave provided updates on the SNRB meeting last week and ongoing sub-group meetings to provide the Planning Board with recommendations regarding the AGRP zone and the Council's resolution on the income requirement. Councilor Staples urged the SNRB to find ways to allow for certain limited kinds of building, noting that this is very important to Council. There was general discussion on potential alternatives to the current income requirement, which would still abide by the spirit of the ordinance and the emphasis on conservation. Dave spoke about state programs as a possibility (requiring enrollment in state land protection programs in order to be allowed to build). There was discussion of what state programs could be used as proxy, and whether placing land in a Conservation easement might also work. Moose Brook Project (Small wetland in south Auburn). Brief mention.

Dave reported **on the American Chestnut Foundation Conference**. There is an active chapter in Maine, scientists at UNE are working on genetic back-crosses with Chinese chestnut trees to improve resistance to blight. A seed orchard in Winthrop is also being developed. There was brief discussion of cemetery trees, in particular dying trees at Oak Hill and Gracelawn.

4) Planning ahead/Work in Progress

There was brief, open-ended discussion about possible projects and priorities for the coming months, including: outdoor education/public outreach; FERC dam relicensing and public engagement; invasive species management; increasing usage and awareness of local trail networks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.