

**City of Auburn
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2016 - 6:00 pm**

The meeting was brought to order at 6:08 pm

Members Present: Tizz Crowley; Pete Preble, Chair; Maurice Keene; Bob Sipe (arrived at 6:34 pm); and Jordan Tate

Members Absent: Nichole White-Matson

Others Present: Tony Beaulieu, City Engineer and Dave Griswold, LACFB

1. Minutes

ACTION: Motion made by Maurice Keene seconded by Jordan Tate to accept the minutes of 11/17/15 as presented. The motion was approved 4-0.

2. Subcommittee Reports

Parks Committee

Tizz Crowley and Bob Sipe gave a summary of what the Parks Subcommittee has done to date.

- They provided minutes of all their meetings which shows the variety of activity.
- It was recently suggested they create a work plan. They have been working on the other charges and have not formally worked on a work plan; however, they have the elements of more than a year's worth of work so if it's a priority they can formalize the projects in the next 90 days and put it into a document.
- They created a draft of a Parks Advisory Board and are hoping it is put on the agenda for next month's agenda. They have extended their meetings another 3 months and would like to be around longer.
- They have made 4 recommendations for changes to the City of Auburn Website that focus on Parks for a vote to refer to City Council for action. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission electronically for review and it will be put on next month's agenda for action.
- They created a master spreadsheet of the parks.

LACFB Update

The Committee spent most of their time reviewing the draft Woodlot Ordinance. They spent some time taking another look at the strategic plan and will take action at the next meeting. They also began to lay the ground work for last year's Tree City USA application.

3. Public Comments: None

4. Old Business

Ordinance Language Revisions

The Conservation Commission is unsure on the status of the ordinance revisions since it was submitted to the City Clerk to be reviewed by the City Councilors. Tizz Crowley said when she was still on the City Council, staff had wanted to accumulate a group of ordinance changes to do it all at once and that may be why it is held up. She suggested a copy of the draft ordinance as they proposed be included in the agenda packet for next meeting. She said the Parks Committee has some proposed ordinance changes as well they are hoping to see action on next month.

Status of Project Canopy and TD Bank Grant Applications

Dave Griswold said the State published that the Project Canopy Grant was awarded to Auburn but there were no details in the announcement and neither he nor Dan Goyette have heard from Jan Santee yet. Tizz Crowley hopes somebody does a publicity piece and that announcements are promoted on the City Web Site and Face book page.

Woodlot Ordinance

Dave Griswold gave a history on the development of the Woodlot Ordinance and reviewed it. He developed a process to encourage communication before the harvest between the professional forester, qualified logger, the department responsible for the management of the public woodlot, and other stakeholders and make sure a harvest plan is written so they know what is going to happen up front. There will also be a review process so that after the operation stakeholders and city staff will have an opportunity to review the outcomes with the forester. The plan is written to include public woodlots however he is not sure where that leaves the Water District. He reached out to Lynn Richard and she said if it is adopted they would probably follow it anyway. Tizz Crowley suggested to leave it as encompassing and comprehensive as possible and let anyone who objects come forward during the ordinance process. There was some discussion on the harvest revenues. Tizz said she would like to see a restriction that will meet the standards that will secure support for the community cords in Auburn. It was agreed to allocate 20% for an account to be used to improve the community forest, 20% to the Community Cords account, 30% to the department managing the harvest woodlot, and 30% to General Revenue but these amounts could be overwritten based on a specific project by majority vote of the City Council or other body. Tizz said there is an override narrative in the ordinance and she would like to use the same narrative rule used to override the tax rate increase. Tony Beaulieu will send the language to Dave to revise the ordinance.

ACTION: Tizz Crowley seconded by Jordan Tate moved to approve and forward to the City Council the Public Woodlot Management Ordinance as presented tonight with the additional narrative discussed under revenues and that once the document is prepared in the next 2 weeks they all receive a copy and should there be any objections to the actual narrative when it comes out, any one vote will hold it and suspend the decision tonight. The motion was approved 5-0.

Maurice Keene said he thinks there will be multiple forestry related projects over the next year and suggested the body of research that supports the merit of trees and the impact on the

public be put into a summary to forward to the City Council or other body for public exposure that shows good evidence of that merit to provide a strong PR basis for the projects.

5. **New Business**

Barker Mill Dam Relicensing

Pete Preble said the Barker Mill presentation by Bates in December was outstanding. Tizz Crowley agreed the presentation was excellent and an example of good communication with residents of Auburn and encouraged the city to link it to their website, send an e-alert saying it is available on the website, and put the link on the Conservation Commission page on the website. They are unclear on what role and/or recommendation the City Council would like them to play. Tizz suggested the Conservation Commission reread it, listen to the recording, and make sure the new council got it and see what the expectation of the City Council is. They will wait for direction from the City Council. Jordan Tate said the ordinance suggests the Conservation Commission is advisory, research, and recommendation and they could put together an official recommendation to move forward with this and recommend they give us direction. River Day was discussed. Tizz Crowley said that is more Recreation, that the new Recreation Director was invited to attend the Parks meeting in February, and they can discuss what if any involvement they will have.

Planning and GIS Follow Up

Jordan Tate was given a brief overview of the presentations. She was also directed to minutes on the website and to the City Clerk or Engineer for the recordings of the meeting.

Policies and Procedures - None

6. **Other**

Bob Sipe passed around an informational email on grants through the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. Tizz Crowley said when they receive information/material she would like to see it part of the next meeting agenda packet to include in the record so that others can benefit from it.

Next Tuesday at 3:00 pm The Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission is having a meeting and discussing their proposed land management plan.

Meeting Times

Meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is February 16. The Parks Committee meets the last Wednesday of the month. Their next meeting is February 24.

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by:
Tammy Thatcher