



City of Auburn, Maine
Conservation Commission
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AUBURN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES - April 17, 2018

Conservation Commission Chair, Ms. Jordan Tate called the regular meeting of the Auburn Conservation Commission to order at 6:01pm. The meeting was held in the Executive Meeting Room at Auburn Hall, 2nd Floor. This meeting was held on a different night due to a conflict in schedule.

1) Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Ben Low, Johnna Flood, Maurice Keene, Chair-Jordan Tate, Tizz Crowley, Rhyanna Larose and Shelley Norton (arrived 6:15pm). Commission staff support present: Auburn City Engineer-Anthony Beaulieu, PE. Guests present: Auburn Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development-Eric Cousens, Fish Passage Engineer at the National Marine Fisheries Service-Bjorn Lake, and community members William Sylvester and Marilyn Maher.

2) Review and Approve January Minutes:

Rhyanna moved to approve the January 16, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Johnna seconded the motion passed unanimously.

3) Bjorn Lake on the NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants Program:

Bjorn's presentation focused on the removal of the Littlefield Dam in Auburn. Copies of his slide presentation will be attached to these minutes.

Project timeline is for Auburn to submit a pre-proposal application by March 7, 2018. If approved Auburn would need to submit a full proposal by May 7, 2018. If a grant is provided: a design and permitting survey would be done by November 15, 2018; Natural resources delineation completed by November 15, 2019; and Bid documents to be prepared around February 1, 2019. Regarding construction, estimated time schedule would be Submit Permit Applications by March 1, 2019; Bid for the project would be the same deadline; and Dam removal would begin by July 15, 2019. There would then need to have monitoring of physical attributes, recreation attributes, and community resiliency.

The project will require FEMA approval, so a letter and map revisions would need to be completed.

The City of Auburn would want to document the recreation attributes of this project. Rhyanna will have photos of the dam we can use in our application.

Questions that will be addressed in the application process:

- how do we maximize community resilience to extreme weather, climate changes, how flooding will be avoided, hazard concerns, and physical and socio-economic vulnerability.

- how does this project restore sustainability, support a resilient ecosystem that will create habitats for NOAA listed or managed species.

-how does our project meet program priorities? Consider resilience to extreme weather, ecosystems, economies, and human community benefits. We will also document how it will reduce the vulnerability of the community infrastructure; facilitate and demonstrate collaboration as we adhere to the planning efforts.

-how realistic is the project timeline?

As part of the proposal application we will need letters of support including Maine Inland Fisheries; other municipalities- Lewiston, Minot, Mechanic Falls as example; the abutting landowners; NGOs including river groups, AVCOG, Historical Society, and T&C.

Other notations include:

2019 is year of the Salmon- how would dam impact salmon population?

Administrative costs need to be less than 10% of project.

Total project cost \$500,000 so Auburn, through Conservation Commission will need to find \$ 165,000 in kind support or actual dollars.

The pre-proposal is not a commitment to do the project or guarantee match funding.

Jordan moved to submit a pre-proposal application by the City of Auburn through the Conservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Johnna, and passed unanimously.

The Conservation Commission will present the project to City Council on February 26, 2018.

4) Subcommittee Updates:

- a) **Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board:** Rhyanna reported LACFB has submitted a Tree City USA grant application. Other subjects from the LACFB report included a harvest in Lewiston, beginning work with Supt of Schools Katie Grondin on a 10 year forest plan. The Board is looking for ideas to promote Arbor week in May and Earth Day in April.
- b) **Trails Workgroup:** Ben reported the group has had first meeting with 9 people present and two additional people expressed interest but couldn't attend the first meeting.

Jordan moved the Conservation Commission write a letter of support for New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) for their grant application for a Mt. Apatite project

- c) **Ag Zone Study:** There has been 3 meetings of the Ag Zone committee and there have been two public presentations. Most of the work has focused on Agricultural issues and not Natural Resource items, except Forestry. Planning Board records related to Ag Zone should go back to the 1960s.

5) **Public Comment:** No one from the public spoke.

6) Work In Progress:

- a) **Review of officer positions and associated tasks/duties-** deferred until City Council makes appointments to the Commission.
- b) **Meeting prep for February 27 with Owen:** Tizz will coordinate refreshments for the meeting. All Commission members will make snack contributions. Tizz will arrive early for set up. Because of the harsh flu season, we agreed to have bottled water instead of a shared drink system. It was recommended all food be individually packed for the same reason.

Due to the lateness of the hour, all other business was deferred to our next regular meeting. The meeting adjourned about 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Tizz Crowley