



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Commission

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

Minutes- February 19, 2019

- 1) Roll Call
 - a) Jordan Tate (Chair), Rhyanna Larose (Vice Chair), Maurice Keene, Ben Low, Johnna Flood. Absent: Tizz Crowley. Staff: Tony Beaulieu. Guests: Kathy Shaw
- 2) Review and Approve December Minutes
 - a) Maurice motioned, Rhyanna seconded, unanimously approved
- 3) Public Comment/Guest Visitors
 - a) Kathy Shaw said City Council will be voting on whether to forward the draft ordinance to Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. She had created an alternative to the proposed draft ordinance. Additionally the City Council is evaluating the creation of an Agricultural Commission
- 4) Work In Progress
 - a) Bates study for the inventory of Ag/Resource zone of Auburn
 - b) Communications Workgroup: Rhyanna updated on the response from the City about creating social media pages for the Conservation Commission. Everyone decided using existing social pages for Auburn by submitting press issues to Liz Allen (Communications Director) will be the most efficient and least liable way to distribute information.
- 5) Work Completed
- 6) Subcommittee Updates
 - a) Parks Subcommittee: Tizz emailed saying they have asked that the city post the need for volunteers but they have not been able to get the city to post. The chair will contact Liz Allen about creating a social media post (since members of Parks Subcommittee do not need to be appointed and instead are requested/accepting on a rolling basis)
 - b) Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board
 - i) No December meeting
 - ii) Successful Browntail Moth Caterpillar workshop
 - c) MAG-ARP
 - i) Covered in the public comments section above
- 7) New Business/Commissioner Comments: none
- 8) Adjourn: Johnna motioned, Ben seconded, unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Tate

Auburn Zoning - proposed creation of Section 3.31 (D) Auburn Agricultural Committee

3.31 (D) Auburn Agricultural Committee

An Auburn Agricultural Committee consisting of nine (9) voting members shall be empowered by the City to develop policies, uses and programs that promote agriculture, forestry and the conservation of land and natural resources within the scope of the Comprehensive Plan.

1. The Auburn Agricultural Committee shall have the following duties:
 - a. Promote policies and programs that encourage farming, agricultural and recreational uses within the agricultural zone
 - b. Ensure that policies, procedures, farming, recreation and development initiatives within the agricultural zone adhere to the spirit of the latest Comprehensive Plan
 - c. The Auburn Agricultural Committee shall be empowered to grant up to five (5) Agricultural Residence Exception Permits annually to agricultural zone landowners who apply for a farm residence structure on their land. Landowners who apply must:
 - i. Own a lot of five (5) acres or larger in the agricultural zone that does not have an existing residence,
 - ii. Submit a farm plan with their application to the Auburn Agricultural Committee to document the necessity of a residence and how the residence will help them meet the goals of their farm plan,
 - iii. Earn 20% or more of their income from farming this particular parcel,
 - iv. Demonstrate that the proposed residence will not be sited on “soils of statewide importance or “prime farmland” quality soils
 - v. Demonstrate the necessity of waiving other zoning criteria (road frontage, etc) that would be required to establish a residence
 - vi. If a landowner is turned down, they may re-apply the following year
2. Requirements for Auburn Agricultural Committee membership:
 - a. Nine (9) voting members
 - b. 3 year terms that are staggered and renewable
 - c. The Committee shall have decision making authority to make specific recommendations to the Auburn Planning Board to the extent necessary to achieve agricultural goals and priorities.
 - d. Six (6) out of nine (9) members must own land in the AGRP zone.
 - e. All members must meet one of the following:
 - i. Actively involved in forestry, agriculture or natural resource based industries; or
 - ii. Have expertise in Agriculture, Forestry, Natural Resources, public policy, legal or related economics.
3. Auburn Agricultural Committee Priorities and Strategic Goals

- a. Protect open space and rural landscape.
- b. Strengthen the agriculture and natural resource sector of the Auburn economy.
- c. Determine and attempt to procure infrastructure investment and incentives that are needed to support the agricultural sector especially in an unpredictable environment;
- d. Protect farmland for agricultural uses and foster productive use of AGRP lands.
- e. Hold price of working agriculture lands low.
- f. Educate the community about contribution of agriculture.
- g. Protect natural environment with special emphasis on Lake Auburn.