

**City of Auburn
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2016 - 6:00 pm**

Chairman Pete Preble brought the meeting to order.

1. Roll call

Members present: Tizz Crowley; Maurice Keene; Chuck Lafean, Pete Preble, Bob Sipe, Jordan Tate, and Leroy Walker

Absent: Nichole White-Matson

Others present: Tony Beaulieu, City Engineer

2. Minutes

ACTION: Leroy Walker seconded by Jordan Tate moved to accept the minutes of 3-15-16 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Parks Subcommittee

National Parks Day is 4/24/16. Mt. Apatite will be promoted and they are letting people know that the best entrance is Small Road. They discussed establishing standards for volunteers. Sabrina is attending the meetings and is now the ex officio. There will be a bike clinic on Sunday. A tree will be bought and planted at Sullivan Park and they are hoping to get a picnic table that was donated made in time for the event.

Chuck Lafean emailed Eric Cousens regarding the land swap 3-4 weeks ago and has not heard back from him yet.

The City updated their web site. They did not use their recommendations yet but maybe they will add to it at some point. The font is smaller, "Visitors" was changed to "Experiencing Auburn" and "Residents" was changed to "Neighborhood". Their meetings are on the calendar but the agenda cannot be found on the web site. When Pete Preble sends the agenda packet it should be sent to the city clerk as well. Tizz will forward a copy of the ABC's Guidelines to the members.

LACFB Update

The Board has been planning for Arbor Week which is May 15-May 21. They are planning on having informational booths at both libraries and city halls. The next meeting has been postponed to Thursday 4/28/16 at Lewiston Public Works.

It was suggested if anyone is interested they should go listen to Joe Kazar. It is the kick off for earth day. They will talk about recycling and solid waste and his last day is April 29 so it's a chance for people to say good bye.

Transportation & Environment

The next meeting is 4/20/16 at 5:30 pm. Topics include: Solid Waste & Recycling Presentations from Stuart Axelrod of Pine Tree Waste and Joe Kazar of MWAC and Constructions projects: Summer Street, South Main Street, Mill Street sidewalk, and Hotel Road.

It was suggested to add The Transportation and Environment Committee to Sub Committee Reports on the agenda since it's the policy committee the Conservation Commission falls under and request to be added to the distribution list for the minutes.

There was discussion regarding whether to add recycling to the work plan. It was agreed that the economic component does not support their recycling preferences and they are limited on time and energy and that would not be the best use of time but maybe it can be addressed in the future.

4. Public Comments: None

5. Old Business

Project Canopy Update

The city signed an agreement with Davey Resource Group, the company that will be conducting the survey. The survey will start in 6 weeks and approximately 2,500 trees will be surveyed.

Woodlot Ordinance – Recap of Transportation & Environment Committee Meeting March 16, 2016

The Transportation & Environment Committee voted to approve the woodlot ordinance and it is going to the City Council. It is a good idea for one or two members of the Forest Board and/or Conservation Commission to attend the meeting in case there are any questions. Tony was asked to let the members know when it is put on the agenda.

Barker Mill Dam Relicensing – Recap of Economic & Community Committee Meeting March 17, 2016

Most of the discussion was focused on the Lewiston/Auburn Growth Council and as a result they were not able to address Barker Mill. Eric Cousens is trying to get in touch with the project manager at Kleinschmidt, the company doing the work for the relicensing piece, but he has not heard from them. The Mayor is still interested in an event for River Day. It was recommended to contact the professor of the Bates students that did the presentation in December for some guidance and maybe involvement. Upon request, Chuck Lafean will email the slide show the students did to members. Jordan Tate is interested in being involved in this endeavor and will be the conduit to the Mayor and Eric Cousens who has met with KPI. It was also suggested she contact Grady Burns, the Councilor at Large on the Economic Policy Committee.

Priority Projects – Project Canopy, Barker Mill, Apatite Park, Trail Consolidation Efforts, Arbor Week, YMCA, LAWPC

Project Canopy and Arbor Week already fall under the Forest Board. It was suggested to work on Barker Mill, Mt. Apatite, and Consolidation of Trail Information over the next year or so to try to make some advancement. It was noted that Sherwood Forest is further advanced than some of the other parks. It was suggested to contact Rick Shea from the Forest Board who has done a lot of the work, would be a great resource, and could help with doing things. Doug Beck in Augusta has a lot of knowledge, including grants, and would also be a great resource. The members will bring a list of possible places that fall in the limbo category to the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding the role of the Parks Subcommittee versus the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. It was suggested to have a dialogue with Sabrina Best and develop guidelines and establish definitions to avoid problems in the future.

6. New Business

LA Medicine Take Back Day – April 30th

The Medicine Take Back Day is April 30th and Trash Take Off is May 21. The Trash Take Off is a Lake Auburn Community Center and West Auburn Neighborhood Association event cleaning roadside trash from 10:00 am to noon. They will meet at 9:30 at the Lake Auburn Community Center and there will be a BBQ held afterward. The Conservation Commission thanks them for organizing and planning the event and would like to see more happen in the future. Members were encouraged to attend if possible. It was requested that if an e alert and press release has not been sent out yet for the LA Medicine Take Back Day that it be done.

An RFP for solar power was discussed at the Economic Committee Meeting. It is a grant program they are trying to establish for homeowners to get it at a reduced rate. If anyone has more interest in it Jim Wellehan would be good contact and would be a good speaker to attend a Conservation Commission meeting. He has a passion for conservation and environment, has solar for his business, and does an energy fair. There is another energy company on Center Street that would come speak any time as well.

Androscoggin Land Trust for May Meeting

The Androscoggin Land Trust will attend the May Conservation Commission meeting. It was agreed they would like to continue to have guests from different groups at various times. It was suggested to have Sabrina Best attend in June to review summer events. Other suggestions included the YMCA, Park Ranger for Range Pond and Riverlands, and the Bike Ped Committee (Craig Saddlemire is chair).

7. Other

Policies and Procedures Update

Pete will get an update on the policy and procedures.

Annual Report Update – Not addressed

Miscellaneous Correspondence – Not addressed

National Parks Day – April 24th Sullivan Square Event – Not addressed

Reappointments

Jordan Tate, Bob Sipe, and Pete Preble’s positions are up for reappointment in June. Pete will probably not apply for reappointment due to being elected Vice President for the Rotary and the lack of time he will have.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is May 17 at 6:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

ACTION: Tizz Crowley seconded by Bob Sipe moved to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Submitted by:
Tammy Thatcher