



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Working Group

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Minutes September 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm in the Community Room, Auburn City Hall

1) Roll Call of Conservation Working Group members

Commissioners Present: Sam Boss, Amy Dieterich, Jane Costlow, Dave Griswold

Commissioners Absent: Rhyanna Larose, Adam Platz

Guests: Kathy Shaw, Maurice Keene, Joe Gray

2) Public Comment – Sam invited discussion of priorities/focus for our upcoming work. Jane suggested working with Sustainability Working Group to propose hiring of sustainability manager for the city.

3) Commissioners had a lengthy discussion of the City Council's resolution regarding AGRP zoning discussion, and how to respond. The discussion ranged from concerns about how to suggest alternatives to the income requirement; to how to engage the broader community in conversations. After lengthy discussion, the commissioners agreed that Jane will be in touch with the Planning Board chair to convey the following:

SNRB working group reps are not willing to agree to a timeline until the October meeting and a discussion of the resolve. An unnecessarily early deadline will prevent careful consideration of the important issues involved. Any process agreed to must be mindful of the purpose of the ARP Zone (“to allow for conservation of natural resources and open space land, and to encourage agriculture, forestry, and certain types of recreational uses”), and the need for inclusive, open-ended discussion of community priorities and perspectives. As part of this process, SNRB intends to schedule community conversations at the Senior Center, creating opportunities for the community to weigh in on the questions raised by the Council Resolve.

Prior to the October SNRB meeting, all members need copies of the final resolve as amended by City Council (Jane will ask City Staff to do this). The assumptions contained in the Resolve need to be clarified, as does just what exactly we are being asked to give an opinion on. Sam Boss agreed to reach out to the Maine Municipal Association for clarification on whether and how LD2003 might apply to conservation and resource protection zones.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00