

## **Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board**

Attendance: Roger Fuller, Chris Pelkey, Rick Shea, Steve Murch, Carissa Aoki, Dave Griswold, Sam Boss, Joshua Nagine

Rick motions to accept minutes; Carissa seconds. Board unanimously approves

Dave reported that Alison Kanoti from the Maine State Insect and Disease Lab will be giving a presentation in February or March; more details to follow.

Notable Tree of L-A program --

- Dave and Steve both made lists of notable trees.
- Rosemary Mosher of Auburn has an app that will receive data/geolocation information about trees.
- Carissa mentioned that DALI Bates student program could develop a L-A Community Forest Board website; would need to start in January. Steve/Dave will be the community partner contacts. We also discussed the importance of coming up with a strategy for maintaining the website long-term.
- The group discussed criteria for what makes a notable tree. Age, features, unique exemplar of a particular species. Opportunities for citizen science through scavenger hunts and submissions.
- Rick and Steve discussed a Bath postcard project featuring notable local trees.
- Steve suggests the following format: DBH; Picture/description of why noteworthy; location

Potential for Lewiston Arboretum

- Roger Fuller raised the prospect of developing an Arboretum in Lewiston at 420 Eastern Ave to connect Montello St., East Ave., and Thorncrag.
- Joshua Nagine will discuss the proposal with the Androscoggin Land Trust Lands Committee.

Project Canopy Ideas for 2022

- Project Canopy grants will be due at the end of January
- Dave suggested ball fields by Home Depot

Street Tree Opportunities

- Dave reports he has been involved with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI); has had communication from Jan Santerre that they are in the process of developing a sustainable forest standard, which they shared to solicit comment.
- Dave discussed the possibility of implementing development standards that require developers to offset removal of trees by supporting planting of new trees.
- Dave will check in with Gary about a line item in the budget for the planting of new trees
- Steve discussed the value of the tree board advocating for improved budget allocations for street tree plantings

- The group discussed the pros and cons of municipal investment in nursery vs. buying from nursery. Steve noted the challenges of nursery management.
- Steve will be requesting additional funds for the nursery during the upcoming budget season; he provided an update on a number of other whip tree acquisitions for the nursery.

Sam motions, Rick seconds, and the Board Unanimously authorizes the Chair to reach out to the City Council's of Lewiston and Auburn to urge investment in street tree plantings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.