

Lewiston Auburn Community Forestry Board Minutes

May 21, 2015

Tree nursery /Lake Auburn Community Center

Members present: Jay Braunscheidel, Steve Murch, Dave Griswold, Dan Bilodeau.

Members absent: Rick Shea, John Butler, Paul Madore, Zam Zam Mohamud.

Guests present: Gary Wadsworth, Sue Boucher, Dr. Joseph and Reece Rodrigue.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.

Minutes of April meeting reviewed and vote to be taken at next meeting.

Arbor Week Activities

Arbor Week kicked off Monday morning with the TDBank Seedling giveaway, with some time spent at Middle/Main Street Branch in Lewiston and some time spent at the Great Falls Auburn Branch. Dave Griswold, Steve Murch and Rick Shea participated. On May 22; Dave returned to the banks to thank the managers.

Monday afternoon Rick Shea and Dave Griswold were able to attend MFS Project Canopy Arbor Week Event in Kennebunkport to represent LACFB. Auburn and Lewiston received their 12th year Tree City USA Awards.

In preparation for tree planting, Dan spent a lot of time on the tractor and early Tuesday, Steve and his crew arrived to oversee the tree planting. The Edward Little students arrived and planted approximately 24 elms and 6 variety with the help of Steve's crew, Dave and Rick. Additional elms and serviceberries will be planted during the week of May 26 – 29, bringing the total to 60 trees. By June of 2016, the plan is to increase the number of trees to 250- 300. In 6 – 8 years, these trees should be ready to move to city streets, and will be valued at about \$40,000.

On Tuesday afternoon; Councilor Crowley hosted “Tea, Tree, Talk” at Women’s Literary Union with Steve Murch doing a presentation on Tree City USA Status, tree planting considerations, and information on pest concerns.

Nursery Tour/Next Actions

Steve says the MFS Project Canopy grant has paid for trees, fertilizer & supplies, the conduit is already in and 220 service will be installed for the well; we now need a better pump. Work will commence late this summer to get the nursery area ready for the tree planting next spring.

Members take the opportunity to tour the newly planted trees at the nursery noting that the original 9x9 checkerboard pattern has been changed, rows are to be planted but spacing is a big consideration for planting. Steve pointed out a couple of the exposed tree bags and gave an explanation of how the bags are supposed to work; eliminating the need for digging out with a spade. The strong root area is contained in the bags and the entire needed root network comes out with the bag for transplant.

Steve and Dan have discussed what the watering options are in the event of a drought; as well as the concern for how they are going to control the pests; namely deer and mice.

Conservation Commission Update

Nothing to report.

LAWPC Stakeholders

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11 at 4 pm. The public input sessions that were held April 28 and June 2 will be reviewed. Lynne Richard is coordinating the meeting. It was noted that John Storer is leaving for another position in Rochester, NH.

Dave provided an Emerald Ash Borer community preparation/planning document from UNH Co-op Extension Service. (See attached document).

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm.

Next forestry meeting date is Thursday, June 18th...location to be announced.

