

Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board

(Auburn Community Forest Board Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission)

Minutes 1 19 23 Approved: 2 16 23

6:00 PM Auburn Sr. Center

Present: Rhyanna Larose, Cassidy Cloutier, Dave Griswold, Sam Boss, Roger Fuller

Excused: Steve Murch, Noel Skelton, Jeremy Lavertu

-Call to Order – 6:10

- 12 15 22 minutes: Approved Note Nov minutes still need approval due to oversight by Chair

-Public Participation: None

- 2022 Accomplishments Summary: Discussion of a list of 2022 accomplishments developed by Dave from past minutes, and how to bring it to the SNRB and Council.

- Potential Project Canopy Grants to celebrate 20 years of TCUSA 2003-2022: Plan is to plant 10 trees in Auburn and 10 trees in Lewiston to commemorate 20 years of TCUSA certification. The grants should reference that the two grant applications complement each other. Jan Santerre supports our concept. Steve is working on details for Lewiston. Dave is waiting to hear from Mark Conrad at the Auburn School Department and The Rec Dept about interest and potential sites. Dave proposed a combination of school and park locations in Auburn, focusing on high traffic and visibility. One tree proposed to be planted at either end of the Jenkins Bridge. Signage to designate 20 years of TCUSA at each tree, along these lines:

Tree City USA

20 years 2003-2022

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There was discussion of putting a time capsule at a tree in each city.

Discussion of 2022 plantings and removals of street trees: Postponed due to Noel's unavailability.

Discussion of 2023 Initiatives: Maine Arbor Week 5 15 to 5 19; Developing a tree planting workshop including MFS pamphlets; explore a discount on tree purchases during May from local nurseries. Sam will approach Gammon's; Nursery work; Bittersweet workshop.

Bittersweet Workshop: There is a lesson plan and materials developed by Bates students last fall (see previous minutes). Target audience proposed as homeowners who could maintain efforts to eliminate bittersweet on their property. Discussion of timing. Bates students will be gone after May. Workshop should occur after vines leaf out. Topic for future meeting.

Community Resilience Partnership: Auburn is planning to apply to the State to join this initiative, which would make grants available for a variety of climate related initiatives. Steps include a self assessment of readiness and potential initiatives by staff and a public workshop. SNRB and WG's will be kept informed, and asked for input.

Membership: Jeremy Lavertu has joined us, and will be confirmed at the SNRB once it is rescheduled from 1 12 23.

New Business: Dave noted that the Maine Forest Service has reported that Hemlock woolly adelgid continues to spread. It was found in Gray and other towns, but not Auburn yet. Auburn is in the quarantine area which places restrictions on movement of hemlock products. MFS recommends watching for the insects which appear as small cooton-like spheres on the needles. MFS recommends trimminh low hanging branches that might become infested so that cars, people and pets do not accidentally contact them and spread the HWA to other locations.

- Adjourn: 7:22