

Sustainability & Natural Resources Management Board

Minutes: July 14, 2022

Approved: Oct 13, 2022

Attending:

Community Forest Working Group:	Dave Griswold
Conservation Working Group:	Jane Costlow
Natural Products & Agriculture Working Group:	Bill Sylvester
Sustainability Working Group:	Ralph Harder
Mayor's Representative:	Councilor Leroy Walker - absent
Planning Board Representative:	Evan Cyr - excused
Staff:	City Manager Crowell- excused

Guests:

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Call to Order: 6:03

Public Participation: None

Agenda Items

1. **April 7, 2022 Minutes:** Approved 4-0
2. **Appointment of new working group members:** None brought forward
3. **Working Group updates:**
 - a. **Conservation (Jane Costlow):**
 - i. **Littlefield Dam removal:** Conservation continues multi-year efforts to remove the breached Littlefield Dam to improve fish passage and potential recreational use on the Little Androscoggin. NOAA has announced no match grant opportunities, \$65 million available nationwide. City Council has contributed \$10,000 for grant preparation. Woodward and Curran will be writing the grant, deadline 8-15. Councilors Staples and Morin have been very helpful with this project. Sam Boss and Jane Costlow have coordinated data collection and building support with other organizations. Welshville dam in Oxford and Taylor Pond fish passage study may be part of the project.

- ii. **Invasive Species:** Conservation has coordinated with Community Forest on invasive species efforts including Brown Tail Moth, Emerald Ash borer and invasive plants. See Community Forest below.
- iii. **Green Space Index:** Conservation is working with Rosemary Mosher to develop maps of key areas. This is part of Conservation's original charge.

b. Community Forest (Dave Griswold):

i. Invasives:

1. Community Forest engaged with Bates students to document invasive plants at Pettengill Park and the Riverwalk. Documentation may be used to budget for development of a management plan and mitigation efforts. State will finance 50% of a management plan written by a trained forester, and 100% of the cost of mitigation prescribed in a management plan. More details and cost estimates to come.
2. July CF meeting will be a zoom call including a presentation by Wes Davis of Hallowell. Hallowell has had some successes dealing with Japanese Knotweed in Granite City Park. Poland Conservation Commission is also dealing with invasives, and has been invited to participate.
3. CF has shared Maine Forest Service updates on Brown Tail Moth with Liz Allen. BTM has been somewhat less severe this year due to wet spring which allows fungi to attack large caterpillar concentrations.
4. CF has supported Maine Forest Service efforts to trap Emerald Ash Borers this summer. EAB has been found in Lewiston and Oakland, but not yet in Auburn.

ii. **Arbor Week and Tree City USA:** Auburn received its' 19 year recognition for Tree City USA in Augusta during Arbor Week. Certificate was presented to the City Council. This year's Arbor Week event was work at the tree nursery on North Auburn Road behind the Lake Auburn Community Center. Approximately 75 trees were planted, and deer fence installed on individual trees to discourage deer browse.

iii. **Notable Trees of L-A:** CF has been working with Bates students to develop a website highlighting interesting trees in the twin cities. The site is planned to provide a list and map of the trees, as well as a way to provide information about the community forest. Once it is developed, the plan is to integrate it with the city website.

iv. Street Tree Sustainability Ordinance: An ordinance developed by CF, Conservation, and multiple workshops promoting data collection, planning and replacement of street trees that are removed in Auburn has received Council support at the workshop level, and has been sent for legal review. First reading has not been scheduled yet.

c. Natural Products and Agriculture (Bill Sylvester)

- i. A series of guests have presented at meetings
 - 1. Karen Scammon, land use tax programs
 - 2. Matt Manson and Chris Piercy, efforts to get more local produce into the Auburn schools nutrition programs.
 - 3. Paul Patterson, PFAS update and perspective
- ii. NIP&Ag is working with Rosemary Mosher to add an agriculture/forestry story map to the GIS system. Joe Gray has led efforts to take photos of ag and forestry around the city and develop short descriptions. This project is on-going.

d. Sustainability (Ralph Harder)

- i. Two meetings have been held and Derek Belanger has been assigned as staff support.
- ii. Efforts are underway to evaluate the composting pilot project and potentially expand it.
- iii. Potential locations and means of providing additional EV charging stations are being explored.
- iv. Recycling promotion and education is being developed.
- v. Sustainability would like to have a Green House Gas analysis/audit done for the city to use in purchasing decisions.
- vi. Sustainability is studying the State Climate Action Plan to make sure Auburn's efforts align with it.

4. New Business: None

5. Meeting adjourned: 7:03