



MINUTES

Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness

Minutes- March 14, 2024 meeting

Attendees: Sasha Anastasoff; David Bilodeau; Tim Cowan; Jen Edwards; Peter Floyd; Belinda Gerry; Bonnie Hayes; Bill Lowenstein; Bruce Noddin; Marianne Veilleux; George Sheats; Mayor Jeff Harmon (guest)

Excused: Elizabeth Fowler; Leslie Torkelson.

Meeting Location: Community Room, 60 Court Street, 2nd Floor

- Meeting called to order at 6:05pm
- Committee members introduced themselves and provided information about the experiences and perspectives they bring to the committee.
- Mayor Harmon reviewed the charge of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness (listed below) and addressed comments and questions from committee members.

Committee Charge:

- Limited in duration.
 - Assess the current state of homelessness in Auburn.
 - Identify the role of the city government in addressing the homeless issue.
 - Identify partners that the city can work with to address the homeless issue.
 - Identify a strategy and priority activities to be undertaken.
 - Provide advice to the City Council on a path forward.
- Committee members, Mayor Harmon, and members of the public present discussed a broad set of issues related to those experiencing or at risk for homelessness. Some themes that arose from this discussion were:
 - Homelessness is neither a new issue in the Lewiston-Auburn community, nor a seasonal issue.
 - Aspects of Homelessness will need to be addressed at the broad L/A community level.

- iii. The complex factors, challenges and realities of the homelessness issue will require a broad suite of resources and strategies to have the best positive impact on assisting those in need.
- Committee members approved Tim Cowan and David Bilodeau to serve as co-chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness.
- Committee will meet bi-weekly for the next couple of months, at which time a cadence for additional meetings will be determined.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.