

Sustainability & Natural Resources Management Board

Minutes: May 8, 2025

Attending:

Community Forest Working Group:	Dave Griswold
Conservation Working Group:	Jane Costlow
Natural Products & Agriculture Working Group:	Chris Carson & Kathy Shaw
Sustainability Working Group:	Brian Cullen
Mayor's Representative:	none
City Council Representative:	none
Planning Board Representative:	none
Staff:	Phil Crowell
Guests:	None

Recorder: Chris Carson

Call to Order: 6:08pm

1. Meeting call to order/introductions

2. Minutes

- a. Jan 9 2025 Approved, one abstention
- b. Mach minutes will be reviewed at next meeting

3. Review February SNRB recommendations and identify ways to move them forward

- a. Results from the March meeting were circulated
- b. Phil says there is some revenue coming that could be put aside as seed money for one of these projects
- c. Staff is considering these ideas for grant funding priorities

- d. Jane pointed out this input would be great for the Comprehensive Plan

4. Discuss input and interaction opportunities for SNRB with Comp Plan committee

- a. Discussion of local food action plan and Good Shepherd Food Bank
- b. Kathy Shaw discussed the thrust of the updated local food action plan (led by Stephanie)
- c. The Ag workgroup was just given a \$1500 grant from the local food action plan group to pursue agricultural projects
- d. Dave will draft a communication to Comp Plan committee

5. Discuss proposed City Budget and any impact on sustainability items

- a. Phil noted there wins and losses in the budget process
 - i. Wins
 - 1. Casella, weekly recycling in year 2, bi-weekly until then
 - 2. Containers will be distributed when recycling goes weekly
 - a. City needs to do a lot of work to prepare
 - i. Shifting parking
 - ii. Placement of containers
 - iii. Recycling Dropoff locations will continue
 - 1. Bin locations will eventually be fenced
 - 3. Garbage to Gardens - expanding to 21 locations
 - 4. Encampment cleanups were authorized.
 - 5. Littlefield Dam removal
 - a. Kickoff in april
 - b. Preparing for permit and engineering plans
 - c. Bid was awarded to InnerFluv(?) for engineering, construction oversight
 - d. Neighborhood meeting of abutters
 - e. Bid came in under the estimate which will help offset staff costs - this will help cover NOAA reporting costs
 - 6. Riverwalk extension is under discussion - funding approved \$3.9million
 - ii. Losses
 - 1. Garbage to Gardens: Offsetting the monthly cost for monthly curbside compost pickup (citizens will have to pay for curbside)
 - a. Rollout after July 1st
 - 2. Bulky waste pickup was not approved
 - a. Can take stuff to MWAC until June 30, 2025
 - 3. No Sustainability Position was authorized
 - a. John McGinnley is the Auburn Energy Czar

6. Working Group updates

- a. **Sustainability:** Brian Cullen
 - i. Brian is planning on holding a Sustainability meeting

ii.

b. Conservation: Jane Costlow

- i. Earth Day cleanup was rescheduled but successful
 - 1. 12 people at anniversary park
 - 2. 12 people at pettengill park
- ii. Pollinator garden 10-12 on Saturday May 10 at Pettengill Park
- iii. Has been certified by University of Maine Extension
- iv. Discussed a cleanup day on the Little Androscoggin trail
 - 1. Last year's storms really tore up the trail

c. Forestry: Dave Griswold

- i. Arbor week is the 19th-23rd - hoping to do a nursery tour
- ii. A deer fence is being installed around the nursery
- iii. Arbor Week Exhibits are being placed into auburn & lewiston libraries
- iv. Washington street testimony on road width for trees
- v. Stetson St tree project - will discuss at May meeting
- vi. Maine Chapter of American Chestnut foundation is looking to develop "Chestnuts Across Maine" as an educational initiative

d. Natural Products & Agriculture: Kathy Shaw

- i. Last meeting involved a tour of Dave Bell's facilities
- ii. Moving forward with planning fall farm & forest tour
- iii. Putting off local land use forum until 2026
- iv. Kathy is looking into creating a rental option for small scale farmers for farm equipment
- v. Monthly meetings

7. Ideas for generating student interest/participation in working groups

- a. Phil mentioned that there is a student representative "TJ" who has helped increase student participation

8. Public Participation: None

9. Adjourn at 7:12pm. Next Meeting: July 10, 2025