



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Working Group

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Minutes - Tuesday, March 18

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 at the Senior Community Center

- 1) Members present: Sam Boss, Dave Griswold, Jane Costlow, Carol Lane.
- 2) January minutes were voted on and approved.
- 3) Updates & Discussion
 - Feedback on the SNRB event in February: Dave shared notes – the group agreed that it was a great event and a good opportunity for conversation with city staff, councilors and others.
 - Jane gave a brief update on the Comp Plan process and ways in which SNRB groups can get involved. Jane solicited recommendations about other groups and individuals for the Comp Plan to make sure they are involved. Working Group members made the following suggestions, which Jane will pass on to the Comp Plan chair, John Cleveland: Friends of Mount Appatite (Rhyanna LaRose as contact); ALT, Royal River (given their involvement in south Auburn). Misty Edgecomb (Parks & Rec – trails, Food Forest). They also recommended engaging at a neighborhood level, perhaps through block parties and ward by ward meetings. Key to interact with kids at EL.
 - Members noted ways in which SNRB and working groups have been more involved in policy discussions recently, including the solid waste task force and testimony to the state committee regarding a bill to redo the state's solid waste hierarchy.
 - There was brief discussion of the perennial issue of connecting more to schools. Jane suggested she could reach out to EL Principle Scott Annear to explore connections (he was at the late February SNRB event). Members wondered if there might be possible curricular connections through classes in the vocational-technical wing?
 - Sam gave a brief update on the Littlefield Dam RFP and top proposals. Sam has been going to meetings with firms.
 - Washington Street upgrade – brief report. Several members will try to attend the webinar in early April.

- There was brief discussion of how to promote economic potential of AGRP zone land, whether in agriculture or forest products, including livestock and meat processing. All of these issues might be part of our contributions in conversation about the Comp Plan.

4) Planning ahead/Work in Progress

- Pollinator Garden. Carol reported on the Seed give-away on March 28 at the Community Center in New Auburn. Rhyanna is hoping for help during the event during the following time blocks: 2:30 – 3:30, 3:30 – 4:30, 4:30 – 5:30. Liz reports that compost is coming for the expanded bed. Rhyanna will schedule a spring clean-up at some point.
- City Clean-up Day is Scheduled for April 26; Sam will reach out to Liz at Auburn Hall, Misty Edgecomb.
- There was some discussion of just what the vision is for the pollinator Garden: Expand into other neighborhoods? Schedule event at the garden perhaps mid-summer – pollinator picnic? As we were brainstorming how to plant the new garden, Sam mentioned David Haines – Jane will contact him about whether they have native plants to share, and let Rhyanna know.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Costlow
Secretary