



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

Homelessness Committee

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Auburn Resource Center @ 121 Mill Street, ARC Conference Room, 9:30-11:00am

In Attendance: Steve Almquist, Sasha Anastasoff, Rebecca Austin, Dave Bilodeau, Dawn Comeau, Tim Cowan, Jennifer Edwards, Jen Eugley, Tom Hibbert, Bill Lowenstein, Cecilia Natale, George Sheats, (Absent: Angela Blier, Tim Cogle) (Guests: Jeff Harmon, Casey Chick)

Meeting called to order at 9:30am

Tim Cowan reviewed agenda and facilitated introductions

Approval of minutes from 10/7/25

Motion: Bill, Second: George, All in favor

Electing Secretary

Jen Eugley volunteered to serve as Secretary (needing coverage for absence 11/4)

Motion: Bill, Second: Dave, All in Favor

Discussion/Check-in about Committee's Purpose:

- Bill suggested adding language about advocacy from the region, Jeff recommended keeping the language broad
- Jeff added that things move/change rapidly, it would be helpful for this committee to not just think about big, longterm solutions, but also keeping up with current events/changes and be able to recommend action to the City in a timely fashion (Tim mentioned the example of the PIT Count coming up in late January)
- Jeff recommended setting up a folder on SharePoint for committee members' suggestions of community issues to address (ask Emily if that's possible)
- Dave gave the example of the Emergency Warming Center opening early (11/1 instead of 11/15)
- George: what if things happening in the community aren't known/represented by anyone on the committee?
 - Jeff suggested routing information through Tim
 - Committee members can provide updates as they get them on any of the things on our standing list of topics for the committee to cover



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

- Stephen: where can we find the most updated data about homelessness in the City? (where are the concentrated areas, like Bonney Park)
 - Tom said he can provide that information
 - Jeff: keep in mind that any data needs to be taken in context, and not to draw any hard conclusions from it
 - Stephen: can we put anything in place to collect better data? Are we any more confident in any of those data sources?
 - Tim: collect data from multiple sources, keeping in mind the limitations of each of those sets of data
- Tom recommended making sure we focus on Auburn
- Jeff: a lot of these topics could take a whole meeting to understand, but the committee should decide which items to focus on first
- Rebecca: how much of the committee's purpose is to recommend action steps to the City, how much is the committee deciding what they can do?
- Dawn: addressing the difficult ins and outs of regulations/criteria and how they're either not helping or even perpetuating homelessness
- Jeff: the committee won't be changing the rules of HMIS and other systems, but what changes can we advocate for to improve outcomes?
- George: prioritizing the list based on urgency and complexity; the committee should have a "subject matter expert" in each of the topics we cover; someone take each topic and present to the committee
- Bill: get information (summary, link to website, etc.) to read before the meeting about each topic we address
- Jeff: urgent topics – Warming Center/Emergency Shelter (update to Lewiston tonight, recommend that everyone watches the livestream tonight)
 - Alter L/A Board is responsible for the Warming Center/Emergency Shelter
 - Starting Warming Center at Horton Street on 11/1/2025 up to 100 person occupancy, closing 1/3/2026 (funding for 8 weeks from Auburn/Lewiston City budgets)
 - 1/4/2026 open 40-bed Emergency Shelter (with \$2.5 million funding from MaineHousing)
 - Jeff has recommended just running the 100-bed Warming center from 11/1 until 4/1 and open the 40-bed shelter later



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

- Auburn City Council funds 40/60 split with Lewiston, we have the funds to fund Auburn's portion from 11/1 to 4/1
- First question: what is the committee's opinion on this plan and what funding the City should provide?
- Auburn could provide more funding to extend the Warming Center until 4/1, but Lewiston would have to meet that, as well
- Sasha: at Oxford Shelter in Portland, guests could move from overnight "shelter" (with mats to sleep) to a daytime warming center a block away
- Jeff: the City has a responsibility to provide a warming center throughout all of the coldest winter months
- Dave: the planning was always to operate the 40-bed shelter year-round, but add a 100-bed warming center during the winter months
- Committee's recommendation to the City: "Committee supports that we take efforts to maximize the number of homeless assisted at night, for their safety and the safety of Auburn."
 - Motion: Bill, Second: Dave, All in favor
- Nov. 3 and 17: Auburn City Council workshops at 5:30 on SSPs (syringe service providers) in light of the city's current moratorium on needle exchange – Jeff recommended that committee members watch
 - Tom: note that Spurwink is the only SSP in Lewiston currently
- Jeff: talk about PIT next meeting
 - PIT numbers are important because Auburn has lost funding to address homelessness because we don't have the data to prove the need; Auburn is very invested in getting an accurate count
- Jeff and Tim will consider also talking about needle exchange
- Presentation on student homelessness moved to next meeting

Motion to adjourn: Bill, Second: Dave, All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am