

## **Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board**

(Auburn Community Forest Working Group of SNRB)

**Minutes      10 16 25    Approved: 11 20 25**

**6:00 PM 171 Walnut Street, Lewiston (to view “crazy worm” impacts)**

**Present:**    Jeremy Lavertu, Dave Griswold, Zoe Lidstrom, Steve Murch

**Excused:** Sam Boss, Noel Skelton

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Sean O’Connell

Call to Order: 6:20

**- 9 18 25 Joint Meeting with Auburn NP&AgWG minutes:** Approved

**-Public Participation:** Concern about impacts of invasive plants in L-A, noting Thorncraig

1. **“Crazy worm” impacts on site:** Damage to root systems, soil degradation and potential for soil erosion was viewed in the lawn on site.

2. **Forestry presentation for Maine Recreation and Parks Association:** Zoe and Dave reviewed their presentation to MRPA meeting earlier in the day. Titled Forest Management, More Versatile than You Might Think. Focus was harvesting as a means to achieve landowner’s objectives, including recreation and outdoor education.

3. **Chestnuts Across Maine:** Dave reported that Eva Butler of The American Chestnut Foundation Maine Chapter has committed to projects in Lewiston and Auburn next spring. Planning will begin in December. TACF goals are to establish 10-15 native chestnuts in public places to engage communities with chestnut restoration efforts. The community groves will preserve the native gene pool. After initial establishment, additional trees will be added if some trees are killed by blight, as expected. The goal is to have 7-15 year-old breeding trees established. Community support is critical to success. There will likely be opportunities for manual pollination to produce seed from the grove. Educational materials/curriculum are being developed to engage youth.

4. **Project Canopy Grants due October 30:** Steve plans to apply for a \$15,000 tree planting grant, to be matched by city planting of trees from the nursery.

5. **Notable Trees of L-A:** This project needs focus and will be the main topic of the November meeting.

**New Business:** Discussion about developing an article on the nursery improvements.

**Next Meeting:** Nov 20 at Room 204, Auburn Hall

**Adjourn: 7:02**