

Sustainability & Natural Resources Management Board

Minutes: January 8, 2026

Attending:

Community Forest Working Group:	Dave Griswold
Conservation Working Group:	Jane Costlow
Natural Products & Agriculture Working Group:	Grant Roberts
Sustainability Working Group:	Brian Cullen
Mayor's Representative:	none
City Council Representative:	Mathieu Duvall
Planning Board Representative:	Bob Hayes
Staff:	Eric Cousens
Guests:	Kathy Shaw, Denis D'Auteuil

Recorder: Chris Carson

Call to Order: 6:02pm

1. Meeting call to order/introductions

2. Minutes

- a. minutes were not approved - will be approved at next meeting

3. Appointments

- a. Dave Griswold will continue as chairman
- b. Mathieu Duvall will assume the secretary position
- c. Sustainability has no appointments (currently two members)
- d. Community Forest Board - adding Wanda Sprague

4. Sustainability Scorecard

- a. Denis D'Auteuil presented the current sustainability scorecard
- b. Current scorecard needs to be completed - and presented to the community
- c. Year over Year differences:
 - i. Electricity usage appears to have tripled
 - ii. Composting rose significantly
 - 1. Schools participating
 - 2. Garbage to Gardens runs the composting
 - 3. Jane asked about promotional materials concerning composting opportunities
 - 4. Survey was sent to residents about curbside recycling
 - 5. Twenty one (21) compost collection sites in auburn
 - 6. Chris Pearcy runs the school portion of composting
 - 7. Dave mentioned this should help MWAC by reducing the amount of wet trash that is burned

5. City Website Updated

- a. SNRB Agendas and minutes added
- b. Additional resources discussed

6. Update on Solid Waste, Recycling & Organic Waste

- a. BIG CHANGES ALL AT ONCE: (ETA JULY 1, 2026)
 - i. Anticipating the move to automated pickup in 2026 - trucks are ready
 - ii. Auburn streets are being audited to determine what changes are needed
 - iii. Auburn intends to comply with the Enhanced Packaging Reduction (EPR) law

7. Request for Committee Letterhead

- a. The city does not sanction committee letterhead
- b. Official communications are to be handled by the City Manager

8. Winter Meeting of Working Groups, City Staff & SNRB on Sustainability Priorities

- a. Meeting where we invite conversation/sustainability organizations in the area to see what people are doing
- b. Jane suggested a meeting to discuss the nuances of the Comprehensive Plan
 - i. Just include SNRB? Or other community groups?

9. Comprehensive Plan update

- a. Comprehensive plan future land use is being discussed currently - what are growth, low-growth and no-growth areas of the city?
- b. Currently this is in committee, but eventually public input will be required

10. Connecting with Business Groups

- a. Jane mentioned that perhaps SNRB should brainstorm ways to foster business group sustainability participation

11. Working Group updates

- a. **Sustainability:** Brian Cullen

- i. Currently Brian and Catherine Mardoza are the only members of the committee
 - ii. Brian is creating a Reduce, Reuse & Recycle facilities directory (Guide)
 - 1. Potentially a Web resource
 - 2. Thrift shops are diverting lots of stuff from waste stream
 - 3. Goodwill
 - a. Auburn store get 750 tons of donations each year
 - b. 80% of items are reused
 - c. Apply a number of sustainability practices
 - d. Employs 62 people
 - e. Vocational rehab programs
 - f.
 - iii. Catherine is looking into creating a “repair cafe” as a volunteer group experience
 - 1. the Auburn Public Library or Lewiston Library is a possibility
 - 2. Similar to Library of Things concept
 - a. \$1,500 grant was awarded
 - 3. City has trailers that can be delivered to neighborhoods - trailers are filled with tools - Liz Allen

- b. **Conservation:** Jane Costlow

- i. Hoping to do something with the Little Barker Trail
 - ii. Littlefield Dam removal
 - iii. Access to the Little Androscoggin
 - 1. Interest in recreation on Little Androscoggin dovetails with Comprehensive Plan
 - 2.

- c. **Community Forestry Board:** Dave Griswold

- i. Notable Trees of Lewiston/Auburn
 - 1. Trying to transition this into an Arboretum on the Streets - and encourage walking tours
 - ii. Maine chapter of American Chestnut Foundation has a program called Chestnuts Across Maine to get chestnuts out in public view (so people see them)
 - 1. Maine has the most blight resistant Chestnuts of any state in the country
 - 2. Eva Butler represents the Maine Chapter

- 3. CFP wants to do a project to plant Chestnut Trees behind the PAL Center in the spring
 - a. Street Tree map - how are street trees damaged
- 4. Lewiston will have a similar project near the Lewiston High School
- iii. CFB did some work on invasive species

d. **Natural Products & Agriculture:** Grant Roberts

- i. Open Farm Day (2nd annual) - less traffic than last year - still a success
- ii. ADA accessible gardens at East Auburn School (raised beds)

12. Public Participation: None

13. Adjourn at 7:35pm. Next Meeting: April 9, 2026 6:00PM