

## **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 Percy 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