

Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board

(Auburn Community Forest Working Group of SNRB)

Minutes 2 19 26 Approved: 3 19 26

6:00 PM Auburn Hall Room 204

Present: Jeremy Lavertu, Dave Griswold, Steve Murch, Noel Skelton, Sean O'Connell, Wanda Sprague

Excused: Sam Boss, Zoe Lidstrom

Absent:

Guests:

Call to Order: 6:03

- **12 18 25 Minutes:** Approved (Note there was no meeting in January)

-**Public Participation:** None

1. Notable Trees of L-A Winter Photos: The consensus was to refocus the project as "Arboretum in the Streets" as being more engaging for the public, and in alignment with L-A's "Museum in the Streets". Jeremy's draft presentation format was considered and endorsed. All were encouraged to take winter photos of trees on the list and to find other examples. Diameters would be a good addition to the tree descriptions. Arbor Week is the target for roll out.

2. Chestnuts Across Maine: MAINE TACF webinar is on Friday 2 20. Dave has reached out to Rita Beaudry at Auburn PAL Center. He plans to look for Auburn chestnut photos at the Historical Society. TACF film "Clear Day Thunder" would be a good introduction to the PAL Center children. Steve and Noel are city contacts for Eva Butler, Maine CAM coordinator.

3. Auburn PAL Center opportunities: We discussed the idea of printing a map and tree list from the Street Tree Inventory data within the PAL Center neighborhood. Noel will see about getting a map. This along with outreach to PAL Center children would support the strategic plan objective to deter street tree vandalism. There is potential to work with Next Steps children in Lewiston and MCI children through Audubon connections.

New Business:

1. **Nursery Sign Vandalized:** A Neighbor found it in the road and Noel has recovered it.
2. **State of Maine Invasive Species Awareness Week is Feb 23-28:** Dave sent the announcement to Liz Allen in Auburn for publicity. Material will be sent from DACF daily.
3. **EAB:** Both Steve and Noel are planning to treat ash trees for a test this spring. Focus will be schools, parks, and special street trees. Lewiston has about \$6K and Auburn has about \$10K. Treatment is required every other year. Cost varies with the tree diameter
4. **Project Canopy Grants:** Lewiston has received \$15K for tree planting. Auburn has received \$10K to update the Street tree inventory with focus on Ash/EAB.
5. **TCUSA:** Paperwork to continue certification is in process.
6. **Lewiston website:** Upgrades are under way. Steve is working with staff who plan to add photos of board members, and make the strategic plan document more appealing visually.

Next Meeting: March 19 at Lewiston Public Works

Adjourn: 7:15