

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Minutes

Tuesday April 13, 2016

Location: Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Auburn, Maine

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Joe Grube, Dave Jones, Bethel Shields, Dick Thibodeau, Steve French, John Bonneau, Bob Thompson, Michael Lachance, Tizz Crowley

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Lynne Richard, Kevin Gagne, Mary Jane Dillingham, Heather Hunter and others from the public.

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes of Regular Meeting of February 10, 2016

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the minutes of February 10, 2016, and place on file.

Passed 7 -0-1 (Commissioner Crowley abstained)

Agenda Item 2: Appointment of Tizz Crowley to Commission

The Commissioners welcomed Tizz Crowley to the board as she replaces Lee Upton for the Auburn Water District Trustee representative.

Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Heather discussed the Annual Audit of the Commission Financials by Runyon Kersteen Ouellette stating there was no adjustment from year end and Heather highlighted the Segregation of Duties statement on p19 and how we do have reconciliations and overwrite controls.

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Annual Audit Report and place on file.

Passed 8- 0

Heather also discussed the quarterly financial statement in that she will finalize the statement and forward it to the Commission this week. Heather recommends changing our bank used for the sinking fund and recommends changing from TD Bank to the Auburn Savings Bank with locations in Lewiston and Auburn. As a matter of housekeeping the Commission officially reappointed Heather Hunter as Treasure of the Commission until December 31, 2017 with the responsibilities of deposits, withdrawals (limit of 3 per month), and oversee the sinking fund.

Vote 3– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept and appoint Heather Hunter as Treasurer of the Commission.

Passed 8- 0

Vote 4– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the accept the Corporate Resolution.

Passed 8- 0

Agenda Item 4: Water Quality & Activity Report – Mary Jane Dillingham

We did not have enough ice on the lake this winter to do sediment core samples. Official Ice out was March 18, 2016 and is the same as the 2011 scenario with ice out. Lets hope we don't get a lot of rain as the August/September time frame is critical.

Boat dock is in and the sampling program has started. There is early season open fishing and despite the short notice we were ready. More notice would be appreciated in the future but even the Game Wardens were aware of the start of opening day.

Public education related to algae response was discussed along with the technical response plan of either copper sulfate or alum.

Agenda Item 8: Update on Long Core sampling project (taken out of order)

Mary Jane discussed the work with Steve Norton (University of Maine Orono Professor) and the plan moving forward to collect sediment samples as the winter was not cold enough and the ice was not thick enough to perform the work. The plan is for end of May and will utilized volunteers and AWD/LWD staff.

Mary Jane discussed the Memorandum of Understanding with A.L.T for the monitoring of conservation easements and reporting of their findings. The term for the agreement would be from 2016-2019.

Vote 5– Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept authorize Memorandum of Understanding with A.L.T. for the services discussed.

Passed 8- 0

Agenda Item 5: Education & Outreach – Lynne Richard

Lynne updated the Commission with the education and outreach activities and the new logo is now in use for the Watershed Commission. Lynne discussed the significance of the 20th Annual Southern Maine Children’s Water Festival on May 20th this year and how the effort needs financial sponsor to continue this great effort as 700 – 4th, 5th and 6th grade students get to participate at USM for 1 free day of learning about water! Donors and help is needed!

Lynne discussed efforts by the local running club to put mile marker posts and limited signage on Spring Road. Other signs through the watershed will be changing soon to update signs at the boat launch, Spring Road and throughout the watershed. National Trails Day was discussed and is on June 4.

Agenda Item 6: Open Session- Public Comments

Kevin Gagne discussed and recommended to enter into a service agreement with Solitude Lake Management (SLM) for the potential for algaecide application services. The agreement would allow a quick mobilization and algaecide application to Lake Auburn if the algae counts get high and pose a threat to the health of the Lake and for the protection of the drinking water. An algaecide application is already permitted with the State – Maine DEP and several years ago we selected our applicator that is trusted in the industry and was highly recommended to perform this work if required. SLM is licensed to do work on drinking water supplies and in the State of Maine and this contract secures our response with the company and no costs will be incurred unless we request them to mobilize for an actual algaecide application.

Vote 6– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau approving a contract with Solitude Lake Management (SLM) for algaecide application services for a not to exceed amount of \$50,000 to be funded from the sinking fund.

Passed 8- 0

Also discussed during opens session was a concern that tractor trailers were spending nights and weekends along Lake Shore Drive and we should let Auburn Police Department know to add some patrols.

Agenda Item 7: Update on Summer Street Extension Development Plans

The City of Auburn has finalized their plans for the redesign/rework of the Summer Street Extension and has requested a deed transferring land from the Commission to the City of Auburn so the work can be completed for safety improvements. There was some discussion about the design and improvements.

Vote 3– Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt to approve the land transfer deed as drafted with the stipulations we do not pay transfer tax or any other costs associated with the transfer and the approval is contingent upon City of Auburn fully funding the project.

Passed 7 - 0

Agenda Item 9: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 8 - Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 8 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM

A true record, Attest:

Robert Thompson,
Secretary of the LAWPC