

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Location: The Meeting was held as a Zoom Webinar.

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was recorded.

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Evan Cyr, Alicia Rea, Dale Doughty, Caleb Roebuck, Alan Holbrook, Amy Landry, Camille Parrish and Dan Bilodeau

Commissioners Absent:

Others Present: Sid Hazelton and Kevin Gagne, LAWPC Clerks, Heather Hunter, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager and Sean Seary, Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of January 13, 2021

Vote 1 – On a motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner Rea to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021 Special Meeting.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2021

Vote 2 – On a motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting with a small correction.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Heather reported that contributions are trending normal. There is a small surplus due to timing and the recent logging work. Commission activities will pick up in the summer months which should balance the budget.

Vote 3 – On a motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Roebuck to accept the quarterly financial report presented by Heather Hunter.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 4: 2020 Watershed Audit Report – Heather Hunter

The Audit Report was completed by the same firm as last year, Runion Kerstien and Ouellette. Heather reported that there were no adjustments and the Audit was fairly stated.

Vote 4 – On a motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Landry to accept the Audit and place on file.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 5: Water Quality Update and Activity Report – Erica Kidd

Erica would like to schedule a presentation for the Commissioners. Lars Gunderson who is a Bates College student completed his Senior Thesis on Origins and Dynamics of Phosphorus in Maine's Lake Auburn Watershed. Erica will send out a couple of dates in May to see what works best for the Commissioners. This will be a special meeting for the presentation. Erica will also propose some dates for a presentation of the Blanchard Pond Study completed by Tighe & Bond.

Erica gave a timber harvest update. The Commission had two parcels that were harvested this past winter. The first parcel was on Summer Street Extension and the second was on Lakeshore Drive. The harvest work was completed by McCafferty Logging and Erica was pleased with their work. There was a culvert that was impacted on the Summer Street Extension parcel that needed some cleaning and stabilization post logging.

Erica reported that the ice went out on the Lake on April 4 which is earlier than average. Sampling efforts are now up and running. Crews are collecting perimeter and Lake site samples along with the data buoy which will be deployed this week. Erica and Kevin recently met to discuss watershed projects that still need to be wrapped up from last Fall. Erica would also like to look at some of the recommended projects that were identified in the Tighe & Bond Blanchard Pond Study.

There was some interest from the Commissioners to see some of the lake water quality data. Erica will pull this together for the next regular meeting.

Sid reported on a proposed building ordinance change that the City of Auburn has considered. This ordinance change has a scheduled first reading on April 5, 2021. It does not appear that this ordinance change will impact the watershed.

Agenda Item 6: Education and Outreach – Sean Seary

Sean reported that he has had a busy couple of months. We hosted several public events over the winter months including a winter walk on Commission property. He also conducted several

digital classes with local schools with class focus on the hydraulic model and how that's applied locally to the Lake Auburn watershed. Sean also put together an Invasive Species work group that is scheduled to meet later this month.

Sean reported that he has flagged the southern link trail from Route 4 over to Gracelawn. Sean worked with several CMCC students to help complete this. He has been working with several trail builders as well looking into the best options for trail surfaces, routing/layout and to insure we follow ADA requirements.

Sean has also worked on an app called Bio Blitz; it is an interactive app where local users can interact within the watershed.

Sean also reported that he will be leaving the Commission and moving to New York at the end of this month.

Agenda Item 7: Commissioners Handbook- Sid Hazelton

Each Commissioner was given a copy of the handbook prior to the start of the meeting. Sid would like to set aside a half hour at our June Commission meeting to have Jim Pross review the sections of the handbook. It was discussed that the handbook is an excellent reference of the makeup of the Commission. However, there is additional work needed to further develop the handbook. It was suggested that a work group be formed to develop the handbook further on a faster pace than every other month. Commissioners reached a consensus that the work group would be formed at the next Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 8: Southern Link Trail-Erica Kidd

Erica gave an overview of where we are at with the Southern Link Trail (SLT). As Sean mentioned earlier the trail is flagged, key properties to link the trail to Commission properties have been identified and the owners have been contacted. Erica and Sean now need to work with trail builders to develop cost estimates to build the trail. We need to develop formal written agreements with private property owners and start developing a budget to start the work. There are several grants that could potentially fund different aspects of the SLT. Commissioners mentioned that it would be advantageous to obtain letters of support from key community leaders. This could be helpful to gain permission across private properties and with funding this project. Phasing the SLT is another strategy that could be helpful if there are multiple funding sources.

Agenda Item 9: Request from the Perkins Ridge Snow Travelers-Sid Hazelton

Sid mentioned that there has been a request to allow access between the middle and south gates on the Whitman Spring Rd by the Perkins Ridge Snow Travelers. This request has been

reviewed by attorney Norm Ratty and found to be an over burden of our easement accosted private property. Dan argued that it is a benefit to the Commission to keep the groomer off the lake for the purpose of connecting two trails that are currently approved by the Commission. There was discussion as to whose property the groomer would have to cross to access this portion of the trail.

Vote 5 – On a motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to table the discussion until staff can develop a map of the area showing Commission and private property boundaries.

Passed 8-0-1

Agenda Item 10: Land Negotiation – Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transactions in accordance with M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(C).

Vote 6 – On a motion by Commissioner Roebuck and seconded by Commissioner French to go into executive session per M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(C).

Passed 9-0

Commissioners came out of executive session at 5:36pm

Vote 7 – On a motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to adjourn the meeting

Passed 9-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC

