



The Law Office of Amanda A. Meader
P.O. Box 100
Winthrop, Maine 04364
207-649-4122
amanda@attorneymeader.com

May 12, 2022

Phillip Crowell, Manager
City of Auburn
60 Court Street
Auburn, ME 04210

Sid Hazelton, Superintendent
Auburn Water District
P.O. Box 414
Auburn, ME 04212

Re: Lake Auburn Watershed

Dear Manager Crowell and Superintendent Hazelton,

I write on behalf of the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission (“LAWPC”) regarding Auburn’s recently adopted zoning amendments affecting the Watershed, as well as certain proposed ordinances that may also impact the water quality of Lake Auburn. As you know, the City of Lewiston recently sent a letter asking LAWPC to address Lewiston’s concerns related to Auburn’s rezoning and the environmental ramifications of development in the Watershed.

The LAWPC Commissioners met on May 2, 2022 to consider Lewiston’s request. After nearly three hours of robust discussion, a majority of the Commissioners voted as follows:

To recommend to the City of Auburn and the Auburn Water District that there be no new development on the basis of any Zoning Ordinance changes made within the last 60 days for a period of 90 days.

The purpose of adopting the above motion is to give LAWPC sufficient time to review studies and permitting data relevant to the Watershed. As such, the Commissioners also voted unanimously to obtain a peer review of Auburn’s Watershed study entitled A Regulatory, Environmental, and Economic Analysis of Water Supply Protection in Auburn, ME by FB Environmental Associates, Horsley Witten Group and The University of Maine.

More specifically, LAWPC voted to:

Engage experts in a peer review of the available data within the Watershed to include the most recent study by the City of Auburn as well as additional studies pertinent to the Watershed and the parcel on Gracelawn that was just recently rezoned.

LAWPC is diligently seeking to hire one or more qualified professionals to conduct the review. Although the Commissioners have no control over how quickly the experts complete their work, they will ask whomever they hire to finalize the review as quickly as possible.

LAWPC is hopeful that the City of Auburn and Auburn Water District agree that a brief pause in permitting is needed to allow the Commissioners time to determine next steps based on facts, not feelings. Indeed, LAWPC urges all stakeholders to proceed with patience, good will and good faith, knowing that litigation is best avoided at all costs.

Thank you for your consideration of LAWPC's recommendation. We are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda A. Meader".

Amanda A. Meader