

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was video recorded. A link to the video is on the Commission website.

Commissioners Present: Evan Cyr, Alan Holbrook, Mary Ann Brenchick, Amy Landry, Dan Bilodeau, Glen Holmes, Rick Lachapelle, Heather Hunter, and Camille Parrish

Others Present: Michael Broadbent Commission Secretary, Tracy Roy Commission Treasurer

Agenda Item 1: Minutes

Vote 1 On a motion by Commissioner Lachapelle and seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2022 and the January 10, 2023 meetings of the Commission.

Passed 8-0-1 Heather Hunter abstained

Agenda Item 2: Consent Agenda

Vote 2 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Lachapelle to accept the items in the consent agenda.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment No discussion

Agenda Item 8: Election of Officers

This agenda item was taken out of order to give the opportunity to fill the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Commissioner Landry nominated Mike Broadbent as Secretary.

Vote 3 On a motion of Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Lachapelle to appoint Mike Broadbent to the position of Secretary.

Passed 9-0

Commissioner Parrish nominated Tracy Roy to the position of Treasurer.

Vote 4 On a motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to appoint Tracy Roy to the position of Treasurer.

Passed 9-0

Commissioner Landry nominated Commissioner Parrish to the position of Chair.

Vote 5 On a motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to appoint Commissioner Parrish to the position of Chair.

Passed 8-0-1 Commissioner Parrish abstained

Commissioner Brenchick nominated Commissioner Lachapelle to the position of Vice-Chair.

Vote 6 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to appoint Commissioner Lachapelle to the position of Vice-Chair.

Passed 9-0

There was discussion about the vacant position of Commission Clerk. The Commission is in the process of developing the Clerk job description. Mike Broadbent is going to discuss the Clerk position with the AWD Board of Trustees. The goal is to determine if there would be a conflict if the Superintendent served as Clerk.

Agenda Item 4: Staff Report

- i. **East Auburn Dam** - In 2022 the East Auburn Dam was inspected by the State and it was found to have some issues. There is a question of ownership. The final report from the State was addressed to the Commission. The Dam is located on Commission Property. However, some believe the ownership of the dam remains solely with the Auburn Water District. Regardless, Mike is working on addressing the issues.
- ii. **Review of new farming permits** -The Commission was asked to review a new farm plan proposal submitted by 833 Summer Street in Auburn, Maine. The property is located within the AG zone and it is in the Lake Auburn Watershed. Mike prepared a map for the Commissioners to review and he also provided the Commissioners with a copy of the plan.
- iii. **Information regarding Gracelawn Gravel Pit** - Mike reported that at this time, AWD or COL have not heard back from the Maine Drinking Water Program regarding the adoption of the conservative boundary set by CDM Smith. Mike also reported that there is an area of land off Gracelawn Road that has not been considered in any of the consultant recommendations. This area has the potential for future growth. is it is decided that the property should not be in the watershed.

Agenda Item 5: Old Business

Discussion of possible recommendations to the AWD from LAWPC. Commissioner Cyr has most of the language for the document completed however the Commission needs to decide under which format they want the letter sent. The consensus was to send a friendly recommendation that includes support of origin on the recommendations.

Agenda Item 6: New Business

- a. The Commission is looking to have an ad hoc Committee to further develop position descriptions and by-laws.

Vote 7 On a motion by Commissioner Bilodeau and seconded by Commissioner Landry to authorize Commissioner Brenchick and Commissioner Lachapelle to develop a draft of Commission by-laws and position descriptions based on the conversations the Commission has had so far.

Passed 9-0

- b. The Commission is looking to have an ad hoc Committee to present information and create a plan to further develop the Southern Link Trail.

Vote 8 On a motion by Commissioner Lachapelle and seconded by Commissioner Landry to authorize Commissioner Bilodeau and Commissioner Holbrook to create an ad hoc Committee and appoint Commissioners Bilodeau and Holbrook to present information to LAWPC on the Southern Link Trail.

Passed 9-0

- c. There has been an on-going discussion regarding the representative to the Commission from the Towns of Minot, Hebron and Buckfield. Currently this is only a 1-year term as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Holmes is the current representative and it has been cumbersome for him to gather annual consensus for him to continue to serve annually from each Town. It was agreed that Commissioner Holmes will pursue an agreement from the Towns he represents to have a term longer than 1 year.
- d. Discussion of proposed farm plan at 833 Summer Street. The Commissioners discussed the current action being taken by the City of Auburn to not allow any new livestock farms within the watershed. The Commissioners did not feel the phosphorus plan that was submitted was adequate to address the request. They were also hesitant because of the current action by AWD to not allow any new development within the AG-Zone within the watershed. There were also concerns with the fact that some of the pasture land is known wetlands that connect directly to Lake Auburn.

Vote 9 On a motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Lachapelle that the Commission does not recommend approval of this farm plan because the Commission is in the process of recommending no new buildings or livestock farms within the Ag-Zone of the watershed.

Passed 9-0

- e. The Commission would like to take action to secure a proposal from CDM Smith to review and analyze the parcel of property currently owned by Gendron and Gendron at

Mt. Auburn Avenue that has not yet been studied to determine the flow of ground or surface water.

Vote 10 On a motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to request a proposal from CDM Smith to conduct this work.

Passed 9-0

- f. Discussion on using easements and deed restrictions to further protect LAWPC lands. The Commissioners would like to receive legal advice on easements at the April meeting. In addition, they would like staff to work on a property list with a list of existing restrictions. The Commissioners were asked to direct their questions to Mike before February 22.

Agenda Item 7: Executive Session

Vote 11 On a motion by Commissioner Lachapelle and seconded by Commissioner Hunter to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.S.R.A. 405 6c.

Passed 9-0

The Executive session ended at 4:55pm

Vote 12 On a motion by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Holbrook to authorize the Commission secretary to respond to the inquiry received and decline to take action at this time.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 9: Adjourn

Vote 13 On a motion by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Holbrook to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 9-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
LAWPC Secretary