

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Special Meeting

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:00 PM

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

Commissioners Present: Alan Holbrook, Amy Landry, Bruce Damon, Kevin Gagne, Glen Holmes, Evan Cyr, Dan Bilodeau, David Chittim and Camille Parrish.

Commissioners Absent:

Others Present: Michael Broadbent Commission Clerk, Erica Kidd Commission Clerk, Danielle Olsen Watershed Manager, Tracy Roy Commission Treasurer.

Agenda Item 1, Septic Inspection Program Subcommittee Report

Prior to the meeting, Watershed Manager Olsen distributed to all Commissioners a cost work sheet she and the sub-committee developed. The work sheet articulates the costs of managing the septic inspection program based on the number of systems scheduled to be inspected each year over a 5 year period. The total costs for the program averaged \$100,000/year when factoring the staff time necessary to complete the work and log the data.

Mrs. Olsen also went over a draft protocol that was developed to outline the responsibilities of all entities to complete this work.

There were many discussions by the Commissioners regarding this, grant funding opportunities, creation of a specific sinking fund and making the Education and Outreach Coordinator fulltime to assist with this work.

Vote 1 On a motion by Commissioner Chittim and seconded by Commissioner Gagne to request an additional \$30K per year funding for septic inspections. Each utility has already committed to allocate \$20K for 2025 in the form of a Maine Drinking Water Program Source Water Protection Grant.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 2, Other Business, as needed

Commission Clerk Kidd reported that the Commission is under contract for a parcel of land located on Maple Hill Road. The property survey is being completed prior to closing as agreed by both parties.

Watershed Manager Olsen reported that she and Clerk Kidd visited the retention pond at Wilson Bluffs Development in Turner. Fortin Construction completed all of the required work to bring this property into compliance. However, there was evidence that someone has created a trail down to Little Wilson Pond. Mrs. Olsen will work with the Androscoggin Land Trust to ensure the work meets the terms of an easement owned by the Commission.

Agenda Item 3, Public Comment

Stephen Beale commented that the financial estimate was factually incorrect. The number of septic systems was off by a couple. He also stated that the City of Auburn has no jurisdiction over the Commission. The resolve they adopted in July of 2024 has no power over the commission. He commented that system inspections should not be failed because a homeowner lacks plans of their system. Mr. Beale also suggested that the City of Auburn be involved in all septic inspection conversations.

Vote 2 On a motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Chittim to adjourn the Meeting

Passed 9-0

A true record, attest;

Amy Landry

LAWPC Secretary