

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was videoed.

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Joe Grube, Amy Landry, Dick Thibodeau, Dale Doughty, Bethel Shields, Alicia Rea, Camille Parrish and Tizz Crowley arrived at 3:37pm

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Kevin Gagne, LAWPC Clerk, Heather Hunter, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Sid Hazelton, LAWPC Clerk, Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager

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

There was an introduction to the newly appointed Auburn Commissioner, Camille Parrish.

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of regular meeting of September 11, 2019

Vote 1- Motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Shields to approve the minutes of September 11, 2019 as presented.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Heather reviewed all of the revenues and expenditures in the presented financial report. At year end there will be a surplus in the budget.

Vote 2- Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to accept the financial update.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 3: 2020 Budget Approval

Heather presented the 2020 Budget that has been available on the Commission website. There were only a few minor fluctuations from budgeted amounts in the 2019 budget. Heather did report that the contribution from both Lewiston and Auburn for 2020 will be \$65,000 each. The rest of the revenue will be gathered from surpluses in the fund balance accounts from previous years.

There was discussion about what to do with the surplus from the 2019 budget. In the end, it was agreed to leave the budget as presented.

The Commissioners also discussed the water withdrawal policies and practices. They would like to review this policy in advance of the next Commission meeting.

Vote 3- Motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Rea to approve the 2020 Budget as presented.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 4: Water Quality Update & Activity Report – Erica Kidd

Erica discussed a Lake Smart Program that she has been working on with Lauren Olson. Erica and Lauren received training on how to implement this program into the community. They conducted the first property evaluation this fall at John Bonneau's house which as it turns out is very lake friendly. Erica would like to advertise this program so that homeowners can reach out to us if they are interested. This program could offer financial incentives to make properties more lake friendly.

Erica also talked about a program that the Portland Water District has in place to install water fountains in schools that are installed with educational plaques, with information on where their water comes from. The Commissioners supported the effort as long as the buildings that receive the fountains have public access and that the emphasis is on education of the public. It was also suggested that there be a procedure developed to outline how this program will be presented, how the funding works and the requirements necessary to receive a fountain if awarded.

Vote 4- Motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to approve the funding requests for the two projects as outlined by Erica.

Passed 9-0

Vote 5- Motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to move up agenda items 6 to be followed by Agenda item 8.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 8: Open Session

Mary Sylvester, President of the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees discussed recent activities of the District. She discussed the appointment process of the District Trustees and the Auburn representatives to the Watershed Commission. There will be a vacancy on the Commission in 2020. Commissioner Crowley will not be continuing as a Trustee for the Auburn Water District, or as the Auburn Water District Trustee Representative on the Commission.

Mary is asking for interested candidates to apply to this and other positions as they become available.

Mary also spoke about a network of women who have become interested in issues associated with the Lake. The network does not yet have a name but they call themselves the Watershed Women. This group has found that there is a large group that have a background in science and that there is enough interest to organize a Citizen Science Project. These projects would be focused on the lake and could involve local schools and their education programs and activities. This group will be seeking funding for these types of activities.

Badriya Dahir was at the meeting as a job shadow of Commissioner Rae. She is learning how government works. She commented that it is important for us to put educational papers on our website and Facebook pages.

Executive Session – M.R.S.A 405 (6)(C) started at 4:24pm

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:14pm

Vote 6- Motion by Commissioner Doughty and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to authorize Legal Counsel to prepare written communication to the Auburn City Council emphasizing and explaining the intent and purpose of the April 22, 2019 Resolution adopted by the Watershed Protection Commission, and to include proposed language amending the Draft Ordinance to exclude the Watershed Overlay District from changes to the Ag Zone.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 7: Open Session for Commissioners

Tizz would like the Commission to consider adopting a schedule of monthly meetings. If meetings are not necessary, they can be canceled with proper notification.

Bethel wanted to mention that the seminar presented at Bates College by Heather Doolittle was excellent.

Dale wanted the Commission to put on the next meeting's agenda to elect a new Chair.

The Commissioners also wanted to recognize John Bonneau for his service as a Commissioner.

Vote 5- Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to go into executive session in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(C)

Passed 9-0

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:24pm

Vote 6- Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner French to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 9-0

A true record, attest;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Broadbent", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC