

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was videoed.

Commissioners Present: John Bonneau, Joe Grube, Steve French, Amy Landry, Dick Thibodeau, Bethel Shields and Tizz Crowley

Commissioners Absent: Alicia Rea, Dale Doughty

Others Present: Kevin Gagne, LAWPC Clerk, Heather Hunter, LAWPC Financial Officer, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Sid Hazelton, LAWPC Clerk, Lauren Olson Education and Outreach Coordinator.

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

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of regular meeting of April 10, 2019

Vote 1- Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to approve the minutes with one change on page 2, Vote 5: replace other business with “at a special meeting”.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes of special meeting of April 22, 2019

Vote 2- Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to approve the minutes with one minor change on page 2: “the word appointed was replaced with elected when referring to Mary Sylvester in the fourth paragraph”.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update-Heather Hunter

Heather handed out and went over a quarterly financial update. Heather reported that the Commission as of May 31 was operating with a surplus. Heather felt that this was due to the time of year and the timber harvest revenue the Commission had taken in over the last year.

Agenda Item 4: Approval of the 2018 Audit-Heather Hunter

Vote 3- Motion by Commissioner Grube and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to remove the Audit from the “status of tabled”.

Passed 7-0

Vote 4- Motion by Commissioner Grube and seconded by Commissioner Landry to approve the 2018 Audit as presented.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 5: Water Quality Update & Activity Report-Sid Hazelton

Sid presented a couple of documents regarding the Ag Zone changes. On May 14 the City of Auburn Planning Board reviewed the proposed Ag Zone changes and acknowledged the resolution issued by the Commission. The current Ag Zone amendments are being reviewed by an advisory board before these amendments move any further.

Sid gave an update on the Rhodes property, located on Lake Shore Drive. They have requested an easement from the Commission to replace their leach field. Erica has been working with our Attorney and the City Assessor to determine the value of this easement. There are still many questions remaining regarding the placement of this leach field. The Commissioners will not agree to an easement until the new system is approved by the City. Sid was asked to have this discussion as an agenda item at the next Commission meeting in September.

Vote 5- Motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to agree that \$500 is a reasonable cost for this easement.

Passed 7-0

Vote 6- Motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to amend Vote 5 and define that the agreed price of \$500 is based off the current design presented to staff.

Passed 7-0

Sid went over the Alum application to Lake Auburn. It is the current plan to apply Alum to Lake Auburn on or around July 8. It is anticipated that this project will take about 1 month to complete. Staff has been working with the applicator, Solitude Lake Management, to determine the proper dosage and start date. There was discussion about the information that will be given to the public prior to the application.

Sid reported that the Commission did close on the Pope property. This property was purchased by the Commission several years ago with the requirement that the property be opened for

recreational purposes. Sid worked with the Androscoggin Land Trust to survey the property and to place the property in their stewardship.

Sid gave an overview of two projects happening in the watershed. Staff is working to place a permanent flow meter at Townsend Brook to track flow into the lake. Staff would like to conduct another drone fly over of lake Auburn to look for potential phosphorous inputs to the lake.

Mike presented an erosion issue found on Lunn Rd. This property is owned by the Commission and has the abandoned road running through it. Recently one of the culverts crossing the Road has failed and created a significant amount of erosion and needs to be repaired.

Mike also presented pictures of a catch basin within the Route 4 turnout that has pavement issues preventing the catch basin from collecting water. As a result, the surface water is by-passing the basin and flowing directly into the lake.

Vote 7- Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to authorize up to \$1000 to repair the failed paving around the turn-out catch basin.

Passed 7-0

Vote 8- Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to authorize up to \$7,500 not to exceed \$8,500 to repair the erosion on Lunn Rd.

Passed 7-0

Lauren Olson gave an activity update of events. The Commission held a forestry talk, a wild seed project presentation and a trivia night at Gritty's. We also attended the following events: Whiting's farm hosted a Plant sale; Lewiston High hosted a career fair. Lauren is also planning to attend an event at Side by Each Brewing with the Good Food Counsel of Lewiston Auburn. There is also a nature walk planned for Thorncrag in Lewiston later in June.

Agenda Item 6: Open Session – Public Comments:

Mary Sylvester spoke of the Auburn Water District. She reported that there are a lot of new Trustees on the Board who are raising a lot of good questions. The Board has adopted a new process to nominate an Auburn representative to the Commission. This will help the Board manage multiple applications for the vacant position.

Mary also reported that the Board is looking at a question that was raised by the Auburn City Council regarding the cost sharing of water treatment expenses with the City of Lewiston.

The Board also plans to study and learn more about water filtration and educate themselves on all of the studies that have been completed over the years and how they apply to the current conditions within lake Auburn.

Agenda Item 7: Open Session for Commissioners:

Bethel Shields received a call regarding the Johnson Road log landing and some potential erosion. Bethel did find where we had done some remediation in that area and wanted to confirm what we had done.

Bethel also received a call regarding gun shots on the lake. The time and location of the shots matched up with the USDA bird harassment program on the lake.

John Bonneau raised the question regarding the sale/access of lake water to private haulers. There currently is a permitting process which requires the inspection of trucks, and a \$10/load charge for the water taken. The discussion centered around where the water should be pulled from and setting up a permanent apparatus for the hauler to hook up to when pulling water from the lake. The Commissioners would like to continue this discussion.

The question was asked, "how often does USDA check the lake?". Kevin Gagne responded that there is no set schedule. The birds would recognize USDA presence if they went on a schedule.

Agenda Item 8: Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(C):

Vote 9- Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Grube to enter into Executive Session.

Passed 7-0

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:28pm

There was no action taken.

Agenda Item 8: Adjourn meeting:

Vote 10- Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Shields to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 7-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC