

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was not recorded due to an error with the camera during the meeting.

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

Commissioners Absent: Alicia Rea

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

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

Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes of regular meeting of June 12, 2018.

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Shields to approve the minutes.

Passed 6-0-1

Commissioner Crowley arrived at 3:34 pm

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update- Heather Hunter

Heather went over a financial statement that was current through the end of August. She noted that the forestry account was off from projections as the Commission has been actively managing a couple of wood lots.

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Landry to accept the report as presented.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 3: Water Quality Update & Activity Report- Erica Kid

Erica introduced herself to the Commission as the new Watershed Manager.

Algaecide application: Erica reported that the water quality within Lake Auburn declined significantly in the month of August. There were consecutive hot days and heavy rain storms that lead to an increase in algae in Lake Auburn. Erica worked with several agencies: Maine

DEP & IF&W, Lake Stewards of Maine, Solitude Lake Management, Dr. Ken Wagner, the Maine Drinking Water Program and the management staff of the Auburn Water District and the City of Lewiston Water Division. It was decided by all that conditions were right for an algaecide treatment of 300 acres within Lake Auburn. The treatment took place on September 11, 2018 and was applied by Solitude Lake Management.

Forestry: Erica reported that she has been working with the Commission's forester, Chip Love, to manage a couple of properties located on the East side of the Basin. So far, those activities have brought in \$17,000 in revenue.

Townsend Brook Phosphorus Study: Erica has been working with Holly Ewing and Dr. Steve Norton to collect core samples within the Townsend Brook Watershed to help identify potential phosphorus hot spots. This study is being funded by a Watershed Protection Grant from the Maine Drinking Water Program.

Maple Hill Road: Erica reported that she worked with the owner of a horse rescue facility on Maple Hill Road to remove 400 yards of manure that had been building up for several years. The manure was hauled by the Auburn Water District staff and disposed of at a gravel pit owned by Longchamps and Sons Excavation. This was a one-time effort to help the farmer get his manure to a manageable point.

Education and Outreach Coordinator: Erica reported that this position has been vacant since the retirement of Lynne Richards. We have advertised for a replacement and have interviews lined up for the coming weeks.

Courtesy Boat Inspections: Erica reported that the courtesy boat inspections have concluded and that no invasive plants were discovered during the inspections.

APD Lake Patrols: Erica reported that the Auburn Police Department had finished their patrols for the season.

Agenda Item 4: Rescheduling of Commission Meetings Tizz Crowley

Commissioner Crowley suggested the Commission adopt a policy on how to re-schedule a regular commission meeting in the event that one is canceled.

Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt a meeting cancelation policy as follows: “all canceled Watershed Protection Commission will be re-scheduled for the following month to be held at the same location and at the same time as the original meeting, with exceptions to this policy to be done by vote of the Commission Board”

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 5: Procedure for Adding Agenda Items Tizz Crowley

Commissioner Crowley raised the discussion that the Commission does not have a clear policy on how Agenda Items can be added for future meetings. She referenced the policy that the Cities of Lewiston and Auburn have for adding agenda items and suggested that the Commission adopt something similar.

Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner French to table the discussion.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 6: Open Session for Commissioners Tizz Crowley

Commissioner Crowley suggested that we add to all future agendas an Open Session for Commissioners. This will help Commissioners bring up Items that may need to be added to future agendas.

Vote 5 – Motion by Commissioner Jones and Seconded by Commissioner Shields to add to all future agendas: Open Session for Commissioners.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 7: Open Session

Dan Bilodeau alerted the Commissioners that there had been some recent work on North Auburn Road. Dan stated that several years ago construction on North Auburn Road along with forestry work led to some significant erosion issues along Spring Road.

Tizz Crowley stated that she is concerned with future AG Zone changes pending the results of a recent study the City of Auburn completed.

Tizz Crowley also asked that the Commissioners be mindful of using the same contractors for outside services.

Bethel Shields noted that she has seen a decline in the amount of fishing on Lake Auburn.

John Bonneau commended the staff for all of the excellent work over the last couple of months.

Agenda Item 8: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 8– Motion by Commissioner Grube and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 8-0

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