



Auburn, Maine

Conservation Working Group

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Minutes for the June 18, 2024 meeting

Called to order at 6 pm Senior Community Center

1) Roll Call of Conservation Working Group members. Present: Sam Boss, Dave Griswold, Carol Lane, Jane Costlow. Excused: Adam Platz, Rhyanna Larose, Amy Dieterich

2) May 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

3) Updates & Discussion

- There was brief discussion of the pollinator garden (now planted!) and follow-up activities. There was much excitement – and gratitude! – for Rhyanna spearheading the project. Jane will reach out again to Nell Houde at Wild Seed regarding follow-ups to “No Mow May.” It was also mentioned that we might try to get a story or photo about the pollinator garden in the *Sun Journal*.
- The group discussed having a conversation with Public Works about city policy on right of way maintenance and landowner responsibilities, given occasions where the city has mowed where people are establishing pollinators. It was suggested that we invite Scott Holland to a meeting for conversation: Possible questions/topics might include: what kind of sprays are being used at Pettingill Park; what is city policy on mowing right of ways? Jane will reach out to Scott to find out what month might work for him to meet with us. See if Liz could come as well to work on graphic/outreach?
- Dave and Jane gave a quick SNRB update. The Solid Waste working group will hold a Public Hearing on 6/27 at 6:00 in the Community Room at Auburn Hall.

4) Planning ahead/Work in Progress

- Sam shared an email from Adam reporting on significant monies that Auburn will receive for trail development. Several groups locally (including the National Guard and Proctor and Gamble) are looking for volunteer opportunities and might be interested in maintenance on existing trails. The question was raised whether we can play a role in trying to promote a more unified approach to trails in Auburn? Jane will email Jonathan Labonte and see if she can set something up in hopes of a broader, coordinated conversation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Costlow