



# Auburn, Maine

## Conservation Working Group

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### May 21, 2024 - Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6 pm at the Auburn Senior Community Center

- 1) Roll Call of Conservation Working Group members. Present: Sam Boss, Dave Griswold, Adam Platz, Amy Dieterich, Jane Costlow. Excused: Carol Lane and Rhyanna LaRose
- 2) February minutes. Amy moved to accept, Dave seconded. Unanimously approved.

### 3) Updates & Discussion

- **Planning pollinator garden rollout and follow-up activities.**
  - Rhyanna and Sam met with Scott Holland to identify a location for the pollinator garden, and chose a spot in Pettingill Park. Sam's dad will be rototilling; Liz Allen secured a donation of compost. The city has allotted some funds for signs to explain the project, and Scott has some prototypes to consider. The tentative date for planting is May 31. Jane will contact Amy Lauze (Girl Scout troop leader) to see if they're interested in participating.
  - Sam has been in touch with someone at Wild Seed Project, they're interested in doing a follow-up event early summer: "You did No Mow May, Now What!?" Jane will contact Nell Houde to see if they'd like to plan something for this June. One idea is to get the emails for all those participating in the city's "No Mow May" program and invite them to the Wild Seed event.
- **Earth Day clean up.** Good turnout, good public engagement, despite having to be rescheduled to the rain date.
- **SNRB update.** Jane and Dave gave an update on the Solid Waste Taskforce, whose report will be delivered at the second Council meeting in August. There will be a late June public hearing for resident input.
- **Watershed ordinance update.** Update from Dave and Adam. Further work on the ordinance was split into two pieces, one focusing on septic system inspection and developing a map for inspection rotation; the second part focusing on adjustments for agriculture. Sam raised a

question about enforcement and suggested it might be an issue to take up at the SNRB: once the ordinance is in place, how does it get enforced?

#### **4) Planning ahead/Work in Progress**

- **Littlefield dam grant** – great news! after several months of back and forth between NOAA and the city to clarify numbers, staff was informed today that the city’s grant application will be recommended for funding. Public announcement should be forthcoming in the next few days.
- Brief discussion of potential for developing trails along the Little Andy; Adam raised a concern about who would oversee any new trails, particularly given existing trails that are in dire need of upkeep (Jane noted the dire state of the Barker Trail). The question was raised about what has happened to L-A Trails, whether the group still exists. There was broad-ranging discussion about the possibilities for interconnected trails within Auburn, and the great untapped potential for recreational opportunities that would make Auburn an even more attractive city to move to and live in.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Costlow