

Conservation Working Group Minutes 9/17/2024

Meeting called to order 6:06

In attendance: Amy Dieterich, Dave Griswold, Carol Lane, Adam Platz, Sam Boss (Chair)

Excused: Jane Costlow, Rhyanna Larose

- Jonathan Labonte, City of Auburn Transportation Director presents on plans for Washington Street Corridor and Little Androscoggin; slides will be attached with minutes. Multiple studies are ongoing, including land-use and transportation studies that will be completed later this spring. Priorities include a desire to move past previous focus on just Washington Street to instead focus more on a full redevelopment plan for the Little Androscoggin corridor. From a traffic plan standpoint, an interest in creating E-W pathways to ease pressure on New Auburn. City is exploring opportunities for water and sewer expansion to support infill as part of land use study. Another priority is coming up with a clear sense of what the natural resources are, and how to create a cohesive vision for the resource. Two meetings upcoming on land-use; Jonathan encourages engagement.
- Dave provided an update about the City meeting expectations. We need to prioritize getting agendas and meetings to Emily Carrington. Expectations of working groups are effectively the same as the expectations of committees.
- Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee on AGRP restrictions. Sam moves to nominate Amy Dieterich to serve on this working group; Dave Griswold seconds and the working Group unanimously approves here appointment as Working Group representative. We discussed what to prioritize in list of criteria for AGRP. Top priorities are conserving wildlife habitat, relying on lands listed as of special significance under the Beginning with Habitat GIS maps; maintaining connectivity among conserved lands to support wildlife and recreational use; and protection of wetlands and waterways.
- The group discussed the status of the pollinator garden. We planned to come up with a budget for continuing and potentially expanding the program for next year; we also plan to work with local businesses who may be willing to contribute other supplies. Carol provided an update about the pollinator garden video, which she plans to send to Liz for distribution. We also discussed possible sites for expanding the project, such as New Auburn or Drummond Park.
- Dave Griswold moved to adjourn; Amy Dieterich seconded and the group unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Boss, Chair

