

Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board

(Auburn Community Forest Working Group of SNRB)

Minutes 2 20 25 Approved: 3 20 25

6:00 PM Auburn Senior Center

Present: Steve Murch, Jeremy Lavertu, Sam Boss, Dave Griswold, Zoe Lidstrom

Excused: Noel Skelton

Absent:

Guests: Jacqueline Crucet, City of Lewiston, Shawn O'Connell, RETREEUS

-Call to Order: 6:09

- 1 16 25 minutes: Approved

-Public Participation: None-

1. Washington Street (Auburn) Discussion: The focus was on space for street trees in the redevelopment plan for the northbound lane of Washington Street. Options are a 3' strip with on-street parking or an 11' strip with no parking. The strip would separate the sidewalk and bike lane. Steve noted that Lewiston's street tree spacing guideline is 1 tree per 50'. Street tree "pluses" were noted as slowing traffic, and making shopping areas more user-friendly. The consensus was to endorse as many street trees as possible. Dave will research the literature for positive articles and Zoe will draft a statement for the Board to endorse.

2. Project Canopy update from Jan Santerre: Dave reached out to Jan Santerre about potential loss of the Nursery Grant and 2025 Project Canopy funding due to federal funding freeze on grants. As of 2 11 25, there is no confirmed impact.

3. Tree City USA application: Noel and Steve are finalizing the applications for 2024 recognition.

4. EAB budget implications: Budgets are expected to be tight this year. It is important to raise awareness that there will be costs coming to deal with EAB as trees die become hazardous, and require replacement. Laying the groundwork for future funding is important.

4. Auburn SNRB meeting with working groups: Dave confirmed that the Auburn SNRB is holding a meeting with working groups, city staff and others to review City sustainability efforts and identify synergies. SNRB is meeting on 2 27 from 4:00-8:00 at ELHS. All are invited.

New Business:

1. Jacqueline Cruet briefed the Board about an HUD Choice Award to Lewiston, "Bringing the Trees back to the Tree Streets." Spring planting is planned around the new Wedgewood Neighborhood, as well as a multi-use park. A neighborhood support group including students will be formed to support the project. RETREEUS is involved. LACFB support is appreciated.
2. Sean O'Connell (Sean@retreeus.org) is the new L-A RETREEUS steward. He hopes to find new locations for orchards to supplement those already established. He plans hands-on training on tree planting and pruning. Sean is looking for more projects to support the community forest. One possibility is conducting surveys of Ash street trees to identify EAB impacts.

Adjourn: 7:20