

Lewiston-Auburn Community Forest Board

(Auburn Community Forest Working Group of SNRB)

Minutes 3 19 26 Approved: 4 16 26

6:00 PM Lewiston Public Works

Present: Jeremy Lavertu, Dave Griswold, Steve Murch, Noel Skelton, Sean O'Connell, Wanda Sprague, Andrew Latham, Zoe Lidstrom

Excused: Sam Boss

Absent:

Guests: Eva Butler, Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)

Call to Order: 6:03

- 2 19 26 Minutes: Approved

-Public Participation: None

1. Notable Trees of L-A / Arboretum in the Streets: After discussion, it was decided to delay roll-out until Auburn's Farm and Forest Event in October. More seasonal photos, diameters and descriptions need to be collected. There was discussion about developing signage with QR codes at each tree, but we felt a good initial focus was to post a writeup on City websites with a QR code to access the detailed file. At some point a map would assist bringing the Arboretum in the Streets to the attention of the public.

ACTION ITEM: Jeremy will assign trees to members to focus collection of additional photos, diameters and descriptions.

2. Chestnuts Across Maine: EVA Butler of MAINE TACF joined us by phone. We have received the application materials and need to apply no later than 3 31. Eva was very enthusiastic about our projects at the Auburn PAL Center and Franklin Pasture in Lewiston. We plan on 10 trees at each site. Seedlings are approximately 12" tall. TACF Maine will organize materials for statewide projects the first week of May and ship materials the second week. That fits our plan to plant them during the third week of May, Maine Arbor Week. TACF Maine will ask that data be collected from the grove over time. Replacement trees will be available when trees succumb to the blight. Dave and Noel have laid out the project at the PAL center in the southwest corner of the field, above the path to Pettengill. Rita Beaudry at the PAL Center is supportive. LACFB and the city arborists will be contacts for TACF Maine to stay connected with the projects.

ACTION ITEM: Steve will complete the Lewiston Application, Noel and Dave will handle Auburn's.

3. **Auburn PAL Center opportunities:** A street tree map of the area near the PAL Center is in the works. This hopefully will help engage the children with the community forest.

4. **Maine Arbor Week:** Maine Arbor Week and Tree City USA requirements were reviewed for the new members.

New Business:

1. **EAB efforts:** Steve and Noel are preparing to treat ash trees shortly after leaf-out. Trees are injected with pesticide at the base. Cost increases with tree diameter. Trees are protected for 2 years. Steve has 130 trees identified. 30 are at schools and will take priority. The others will be treated depending on how much funding becomes available. Noel is taking a similar approach and is determining what funds will be available.
2. **Lewiston website:** Upgrades to the LACFB page are moving ahead.

Next Meeting: April 16, 6:00pm at Auburn Hall, Room 204

Adjourn: 7:45