

SNRB April 9, 2026

Present: Chelsea Eaton, Kathy Shaw, Bob Hayes, David Griswold, Brian Cullen, Matt Duvall, Catherine Mardosa

Attending:

Community Forest Working Group: Dave Griswold

Conservation Working Group:

Natural Products & Agriculture Working Group: Grant Roberts

Sustainability Working Group: Brian Cullen

Mayor's Representative: Councilor Matt Duvall

Planning Board Representative: Bob Hayes

Excused:

Staff:

Guests: Kathy Shaw, Chelsea Eaton

Public comment: None

Solid Waste automated collection:

- Casella is ready. Wanted to start next month but we pushed back. We are shooting for Late July.
- Work is needed.
 - Review comms plan
 - Review ops plan from PW
 - Ordinance for parking changes needed to account for bins
 - How to handle end of road – type collection b/c bins are big and heavy
 - Make some pads
 - Alt to small dumpsters?
 - 40 or so locations for this
 - Also developments that are on non-city roads.

- Casella is contracted to manage bins (so the public will work with Casella on bin problems)

Littlefield Dam update

- Work starts summer 2026
- **6 bids submitted**
- Internal review of bids along with consultant and NOAA
- In-water work must be done July 15-September 30
- **Project complete 10/30**
- **Planting and site restoration next spring (2027)**
- **Bids came in very low**
- **Allow us to work on Taylor Brook fish passage feasibility plan**
- Public meetings too
- Discussion

Dark Skies (Chelsea Eaton)

- Introduction
- Importance of dark skies and the impacts of light pollution are not small
- **LD1934 – toward responsible outdoor lighting for Maine**
- **Maine dark sky week – second week of May**
- What can the city do to limit or reduce nighttime light pollution
- **Katahdin woods and waters national monument – Dark Skies Sanctuary**
- Maine North Woods – Dark skies park

Updates

- Forest conservation group
 - American Chestnut project - PAL center presentation
 - Hope to get back to maturation to harvest nuts
 - Program supports the planting of the trees
 - Developing community support to help this work
 - Notable trees in L/A
 - Transitioning to an arboretum in the streets
 - Seasonal pictures
 - Street trees or visible from the road
 - No distinct criteria for inclusion

- Ag group -
 - Sopers mill weekend of May 15 3 farms will be open to public
 - Seedlings
 - Tours
 - Native plant sale at NRCS til end of April
 - Change of chair to ag board – Chloe from Open Heart Farm will take over
- Sustainability
 - Energy cafe at Aub pub library – cheap weatherization and free energy coaching
 - April 30 is the next one – CMP savings
 - April 24 is repair cafe (shared Lewiston and auburn PL)
- Conservation
 - Working on gardens
 - Earth Day cleanup being planned

Events – can we put on the sign boards or pushed out on alerts