

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Location: Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Auburn, Maine

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Joe Grube, Dick Thibodeau, John Bonneau, Bethel Shields, Tizz Crowley, Dave Jones

Commissioners Absent: Michael Lachance, Robert Thompson

Others Present: Lynne Richard, Kevin Gagne, Michael Broadbent and members of the public Dan Bilodeau, K.C. Geiger, Paul Desjardins, Dan Desjardins, Gerard Desjardins, Larry Como

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 8, 2017

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of 2/8/2017.

Passed 5-0 Commissioners Crowley and Shields had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item 2: Annual Audit – Heather Hunter

Heather presented the Commissioners with copies of the Audit Report. The report was prepared by Runyon Kersteen Ouellette. We are in our second year of a five-year contract with them. Heather directed the Commissioners to page 3 where Management Discussion and Analysis is broken down. 2016 was pretty quiet with the lack of land purchases. Heather went over pages 7-8 and explained the net position of the Commission. We carried funds forward from last year and we were able to cut back on the Utility contributions. Heather reported that the Auditors approved our financial practices and signed off on the Audit as accepted.

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to accept the Audit Report as presented.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Heather reported that it has been relatively quiet up until this point. We did receive an older invoice from Steve Norton of UMO for the sediment analysis samples collected last year. Heather reported that we went over in the Public Education budget, this was due to the costs of the Newsletter. This will typically be covered by a surplus of funds from another account. Heather reported that she is expecting the real estate tax bills to be coming in soon.

Vote 3- Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the Financial Update as presented.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 4: Water Quality Update and Activity Report – Kevin Gagne

Kevin presented a report prepared by Mary Jane Dillingham. Kevin reported that as of April 12th the lake is still froze over. The Lake is trending normal for both algae and turbidity. Ice out in 2016 was on March 12, 2017. Water Quality staff drilled a hole near the treatment facility and there was 22" of ice. The Lake Auburn Gloeotrichia study will continue in 2017 and Steve Norton is in the process of analyzing the core samples taken of the lake sediment.

Vote 4- Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Water Quality Update as presented.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 5: Education and Outreach Update– Lynne Richard

Lynne provided an Education and Outreach Report which included a schematic of the Water Treatment Plant. This will be a useful tool when explaining how the Plant operates. Lynne plans to post this schematic on the website.

Lynne reported she is expecting a new early childhood development program from Project WET. She anticipates a lot of interest in this new program.

Tizz Crowley recommended sending a copy of the Education and Outreach update to the Sun Journal and also the Twin City Times. She also asked if there were opportunities to offer adult education in addition to the work Lynne does in the classrooms around the watershed.

John Bonneau suggested that we reach out to the Lewiston Public Library which puts on forums that provide education for adults.

Vote 5- Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner French to accept the Education and Outreach Update.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 6: Unauthorized use of LAWPC Property– Kevin Gagne

Kevin reported that several complaints had come regarding snowmobile use and access on the plowed sections of Spring Rd. Some of the complaints expressed concern over snowmobile traffic going around the gates and the increased traffic near two camps that are located on that section of the road.

Kevin had a map that showed the snowmobile trails around the Spring Road area. He pointed out the location of the middle and south gates on the map and also the conservation trail that connects the LACC property to the Spring Rd.

A discussion was had regarding the plowing of the Spring Road and who is permitted to access the Spring Rd. It was thought by some at the meeting that this was by contact between the property owners and the Commission when the gates went up.

Discussion was had on the mixed use of the Spring Rd. Should snowmobiles and pedestrian traffic be mixed, and if so, are there appropriate safety precautions in place in the form of signage. The Commissioners asked that this agenda topic remain on future agendas until resolutions can be found for the following issues:

1. What are the Commission's responsibilities in regard to the Spring Rd. Is there a written agreement? What is the right of way width?
2. We need to ensure that the Perkins Ridge Snow Travelers has the proper permit that covers and gives them permission to groom all of the areas that are currently getting groomed.
3. Continue to work with Dan Bilodeau to develop a parallel trail to the Spring Rd for snowmobile traffic.

Discussion continued to include current and future Fat Bike events, Dan Bilodeau reported that the LACC and Lost Valley are promoting Fat Bike events. Kevin Gagne asked Dan Bilodeau if he has seen an increase in the Fat Bike traffic in and around the Lake and on Spring Rd. Dan Bilodeau said that there had been an increase in bottle donations at LACC and fat bike traffic. Kevin Gagne asked that events be communicated to LAWPC so that the proper permissions are in place.

Gerard Desjardins also noted that Lost Valley is working on a program where they will be renting Fat Bikes in the area.

Dan Desjardins commented that before the gates went up on the Spring Rd there was a lot of vandalism of their camp. After the gates went up and were closed the vandalism stopped. There is concern that if snowmobile access is granted to these areas the vandalism will occur once again.

Tizz requested that the E-mail thread regarding the unauthorized use of LAWPC property be included as supplemental information along with the minutes of this meeting. She would also like all of the Commissioners to receive FOAA training.

Agenda Item 7: Future Meeting Times and Locations

Discussion was had on whether or not the Commission should change the Commission meeting time and location.

Vote 6- Motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Jones to keep the meeting time and location the same and to continue to video record the meetings. The Commission will revisit the meeting time and location at the end of each calendar year to ensure that the time continues to work for the majority of the commissioners.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 8: Open Session

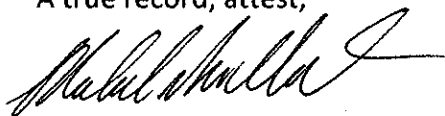
Gerard Desjardins noted that he has no issue with any of the current activity that goes on the Spring Road and he sees no issue with Dan Bilodeau grooming through the gated section of the Spring Road.

Commissioner Thibodeau asked about the continued absence of Commissioner Lachance. He felt that there was a lack of representation from Lewiston. Dave Jones pointed out that both he and Joseph Grube represent Lewiston and that in December the City of Lewiston will appoint another representative.

Vote 7- Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 7-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent

Secretary of the LAWPC