

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Location: This meeting was conducted remotely as a zoom webinar

Time: Meeting began at 3:35 PM

Recording: The meeting was recorded.

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Dick Thibodeau, Bethel Shields, Alicia Rea, Joe Grube, Amy Landry and Camille Parrish

Commissioners Absent: Dale Doughty

Others Present: Kevin Gagne, LAWPC Clerk, Sid Hazelton, LAWPC Clerk, Heather Hunter, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager.

Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes of regular meeting of February 12, 2020.

Vote 1 – On a motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Rea to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update- Heather Hunter.

Heather reported that this is the one meeting a year that there is not a financial report because of the timing. She reported that the Commission had only paid two bills so far this year, one for real-estate tax and one for work completed by Longchamps and Sons last year.

Agenda Item 3: Annual Audit- Heather Hunter

Heather distributed the Audit via e-mail prior to the start of the meeting. Heather reported that the Audit was unqualified meaning there were no adjustments needed. The Commission did have a net increase of a little more than \$40,000. The footnotes of the Audit mentioned the the Commission's one property purchase. There were no significant deficiencies with the Audit.

Vote 2 – On a motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Landry to accept the Audit and place it on file.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 4: Water Quality Update & Activity Report- Erica Kidd

Erica reported that she is still in the process of hiring an Education and Outreach Coordinator. This has been a difficult process given the current Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Blanchard Pond phosphorus study is underway with Thigh-Bond. They have already collected the first round of sampling and plan to come back soon for follow up sampling.

Erica is working on updating the Commission's Land-Use Plan. This plan outlines and defines things like, recreation, forestry and property purchases.

Erica is also working on a land acquisition policy as well that will help access the risks/needs for property purchases for the Commission.

Erica talked about a forestry information flyer that she and Lauren had worked on with the Commission's forester. It has information on Forestry Best Management Practices, State BMPs and what is done by the Commission above and beyond these BMPs. It also covers the forestry activities over the last year.

The last Item Erica covered was the Bulk Water Haulers Policy. She has revised the old policy. As a result of the changes the withdrawal fees will be raised for the first time in several years. Erica also added language to require annual inspection of trucks and the requirement for backflow preventors. Sid added that Route 4 is set to be re-constructed in 2021. This policy should stay in place until the Route 4 turn-out is closed. Sid has asked the Commissioners approve the revisions to the Water Hauler Policy so that the plan revisions will be in place for the 2020 season. Once the turn-out is closed the revenues collected from bulk water haulers over the last several years will be split between Lewiston and Auburn so that fill stations can be established in each city's distribution system.

Vote 3 – On a motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Landry to accept the changes to the Water Hauler Policy.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 5: Open Session-Public comments

No comments from the public

Agenda Item 6: Open Session for Commissioners

Bethel Shields asked if Erica was aware of a couple of grow operations that have plans to develop on Maple Hill Rd. Erica reported that she had reviewed a septic proposal but that proposal did not disclose the nature of the system. Bethel reported that some neighbors are concerned with the impact of a grow facility in this area. Erica plans to look into it.

Commissioner Parrish asked if the Commissioners would have the opportunity to review the land acquisition policy. Erica reported that it is in the draft stages and that she would distribute it to Commissioners once Kevin and Sid have finished their review.

Bethel asked about the status of Tizz Crowley's appointment to the Board. Sid reported that Tizz is no longer a Water Trustee or Watershed Commissioner. The Water District Board has not re-appointed a Trustee representative to the Commission but they hope to have that done by the next Commission meeting in June.

Steve French asked about a land swap request that the Commission had received and asked if that had moved forward. Sid reported that nothing has moved forward from the original request.

Camille Parrish reported that she had heard of an erosion issue on the North end of Spring Rd over the winter. Erica said that staff was aware of it and that are looking into it.

Dick Thibodeau brought up the revision of the Commission's Comprehensive Plan that Dale mentioned at the last meeting. Dick would like to see an Ad-Hoc committee to research different areas and projects to be considered for the plan. Everyone agreed it was a good idea.

Erica reported that there are boat inspectors lined up for this season and that we will receive State funds to help with the program.

Camille Parrish reported that a Bates honor student just finished a thesis on erosion, weather, development and soils on Lake Auburn. It would be beneficial for the Commissioners to view a presentation of the thesis.

Agenda Item 7: adjourn meeting

Vote 4 – On a motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Shields to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 7-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC