

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Location: The Meeting was held and recorded as a Zoom Webinar.

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was recorded.

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Evan Cyr, Alicia Rea, Dale Doughty, Caleb Roebuck, Alan Holbrook, Amy Landry, Camille Parrish and Dan Bilodeau

Commissioners Absent:

Others Present: Sid Hazelton, LAWPC Clerk, Heather Hunter, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager and Sean Seary, Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 4, 2020

Vote 1 – On a motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Cyr to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting.

Passed 7-0

Vote 2 – On a motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Roebuck to move agenda Items 9 and 10 up on the agenda.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update- Heather Hunter

Heather went over the year-end financial report for the Commission. She reported that the audit is scheduled for the second week in March.

Vote 3 – On a motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner French to accept the financial report as presented and place it on file.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 3: Water Quality Update & Activity Report- Erica Kidd

Erica first discussed the recently completed Blanchard Pond Study. This was the study of a small pond within the watershed that was suspected of having higher than normal levels of phosphorus. The study has found that the pond itself is not as impactful as the drainage course

that connects the pond to the lake. The study has several options and recommendations to reduce phosphorus loading. Erica will be sending a copy of this study to all Commissioners for review. The Commissioners asked several questions about the pond and would like to discuss the proposed remediation suggestions at the next meeting.

Forestry update - Operations are currently on hold until ground conditions improve enough to allow harvesting. It was mentioned that there was a current harvest occurring on Brighton Hill Road just outside of the watershed. Another question was asked if staff has the opportunity to review harvest plans for woodlots not owned by the Commission. It was reported that the City of Auburn reviews and approves harvest plans. It was suggested that staff should work with the City to establish notifications when harvest plans are submitted for review. Commissioner Cyr pointed out that it does not appear that the City has specific forestry standards for shore land areas. It is important that we look into this further.

Water Quality update - Ice-on for Lake Auburn occurred on January 31. This is the latest ice-on date in recent years. Despite the late ice-on water quality remains good.

Commissioner Bilodeau discussed an RME (Responsible Management Entity) that he has been researching. He would like to focus the RME on dog and other pet waste within the watershed. Dan is suggesting the Commission provide 5-gallon pails, waste scoopers and septic riser covers to watershed residents that are interested in participating. A few questions came up regarding other RMEs and how these materials would be distributed. The Commissioners were interested in having more information.

Agenda Item 4: Education and Outreach Activities- Sean Seary

Sean went over the activities that have occurred in the last month. Sean has done lessons with the Androscoggin Valley Education Collaborative Program. He re-scheduled the winter walk that was canceled last month. He has been working with the I-Naturalist App to reach out to watershed residents and visitors. Sean was able to flag the first mile of the proposed Southern Link Trail. He has also reached out to a reputable trail builder that will help build stewardship within the community. Sean has also started preparing for the 2021 Lake Smart season. He is excited to get this program going again.

Agenda Item 5: City of Auburn, Lake Auburn Study- Sid Hazelton

Sid reported that the study has been awarded and is currently underway. Eric Cousens is the City coordinator of the Study and he has requested copies of all of the reports and studies associated with Lake Auburn for evaluation.

Agenda Item 6: Request from Perkins Ridge Snow Travelers to bypass middle and south Gates on Whitman Spring Road- Dan Bilodeau

Commissioner Bilodeau is requesting permission from the Commission to access between the north and middle gates on Spring Rd when the ice conditions on the lake are poor. This would allow the groomer to make one trip from Spring Rd to the Lost Valley area. This question was first made to co-clerks Kevin and Sid. They did not feel comfortable allowing this given the history of this section of the trail. Just a few years ago this topic was discussed at a public hearing and then at a special Commission meeting where several residents voiced their concerns with allowing snowmobile traffic onto Spring Rd. Also, most recently since the request was made the snow groomer has gone by the middle gate without permission and snowmobiles have been driving around the southern gate without permission. Sid sent the Commissioners copies of the resolve that was developed in response to the previous public input and legal counsel advisement. Several Commissioners commented that with respect to the previous efforts that a similar process be followed regarding this request. The Commissioners agreed that Dale Doughty, Sid Hazelton and Dan Bilodeau will work together to develop a process to address this request.

Agenda Item 9: Open Session-Public Comments

Heather Hunter reported that the Commission sent a donation to the Turner Food Pantry in the memory of Richard Thibodeau. Richard passed away in January. He was a Commissioner for many years and will be missed.

Agenda Item 10: Open Session for Commissioners

Commissioner Parrish reported that she attended the presentation given by Lars Gunderson at the recent Maine Water Utilities Association meeting. Camille asked if we could obtain a copy of the presentation and potentially share that with Commissioners. Erica has the presentation which at this time cannot be made public as they plan to have Lars's work published.

Commissioner Rea reported that staff should pay attention to the current legislation that is being considered on aquatic species. Erica has reviewed testimony that was developed by MWUA.

Agenda Item 7: Land Negotiation-Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)

Vote 4 – On a motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Landry to go into executive session to discuss potential land negotiations in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A).

Passed 9-0

Executive session ended at 4:56pm

Agenda Item 8: Executive Session regarding a personnel matter in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)

Vote 5 – On a motion by Commissioner Bilodeau and seconded by Commissioner Roebuck to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A).

Passed 8-1-0

Executive session ended at 5:18pm

Agenda Item 11: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 6 – On a motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner French to adjourn the meeting

Passed 8-1-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC