

# **Conservation Commission Meeting Report**

## **Town of Lisbon, Maine**

### **January 15, 2019, 6:00 p.m.**

The January 15, 2019 meeting of the Lisbon Conservation Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m., at Frank's Restaurant. Those, in attendance, included Alan Seamans, Annica McGuirk, Staff Advisor Mark Stevens, P&R employee Wesley Walton, Savanna Hagerthy, Richard Nadeau, Jamie Chappell of Garbage to Gardens and Richard Main, Chair. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Wesley Walton reported on the progress of GPS mapping he did of the trails at Beaver Park. The intention is to have accurate trail maps available for the public when annual park permits are purchased. Signage will be added at intersecting trails. Parks employees also plan to build Beaver Park trail bridges, on parts of trails which need protection. Park employees are also constructing signs, to be displayed on Route #196, directing to the town parks, the boat launch and the walking trails.

Jamie Chappell, "Garbage To Gardens" principal, spoke extensively about the current interest which towns have in reducing the tonnage of solid waste and instituting composting of household waste as a way. Numerous municipalities currently participate in composting programs, engaging one of several companies.

The Conservation Commission recommends to the Town Council that the town investigate, and institute, a composting program the entire community can be a part of. We would also recommend that a kiosk be erected, just inside the gate of the Transfer Station to accommodate all residents who wish to compost. Participants would include all residents, including the school-age population, whether or not they have a Transfer Station permit. Many schools participate in the program. Attached is a sample estimate of costs for budget purposes. It was done by "Garbage to Gardens," at the request of the commission. Another company, "We Compost It" should also be invited to participate. In either situation, a kiosk will need to be sited. DEP also provides assistance to municipalities who want to institute a compost program.

Mark and Wesley shared that plans continue to create trails and signage for the Summer Street Park. The Summer Street Park is intended to be a "dog friendly" park, available for walking by all residents.

The Conservation Commission also recommends the Town Council investigate the available programs to convert all of the street lights to LED. There are several options which the Town Council might investigate to obtain the "best" program for the municipality. Some programs require upfront costs while at least one does not require upfront costs. That particular program (no upfront cost) may cost significantly more than the other programs and should be carefully considered by the Town Council. Update: CMP owns most of the street lights in Lisbon so the municipality must contract with the same.

Municipal solar farms and rooftop solar arrays appear to help communities reduce the annual cost of energy which is used. The Conservation Commission recommends that the Town Council investigate the opportunity to reduce tax costs and install building mounted solar panels or create a solar farm on either of two capped landfill sites. Landfill sites are currently being used for solar farms in Portland and other municipalities.

Respectfully submitted: Richard Main, Chair

