

Meeting Minutes - Hallowell Comprehensive Planning Committee
6pm Thursday, August 20, 2020 online meeting via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Maureen Aucoin, John Bastey, Matt Cary, Patrick Cunningham, Deb Fahy (secretary), Julie Horn, Andrew (Drew) Landry (chair), Jeff Levine (consultant), Nate Rudy (city manager)

Members of the Public Present: Karen Tucker and Maggie Warren

1. Introductions

2. Housekeeping

Approval of minutes from July was tabled until the September meeting.

3. Public Comment

Karen Tucker of Hallowell Heart & Soul asked if collaborating on public outreach was a topic on tonight's agenda. Drew said we could discuss that under item #4 and the committee proceeded directly on to that topic.

4. Outreach Since Last Meeting

There was further discussion about how to coordinate public outreach efforts between the Comp Plan Committee, Hallowell Heart & Soul and Vision Hallowell. Jeff gave a quick summary of what the comprehensive planning process requires. We need to offer multiple opportunities for the public to learn about what we are working on and to give feedback and these need to be publicly advertised. Everyone agreed that this is a great opportunity to coordinate rather than duplicate efforts since all three groups are on a similar timeline.

Action Items:

- Deb Fahy will organize a Zoom meeting of representatives from the Comp Plan Committee, Vision Hallowell and Heart and Soul within the next two weeks to discuss a coordinated public outreach campaign.
- Deb Fahy will upload Karen Tucker's overview and comparison of questions the 3 groups have used or proposed using so far to dropbox and share with the full committee.

5. Old Business

a. Public Facilities Section

John Bastey stressed the importance of including a clear and affirmative statement requiring that new building projects must tap into existing sewer and water lines because putting it in the comp plan will give the Planning Board more power in dealing with subdivision applications in particular. Jeff said he'd circle back and make it crystal clear that this is a proactive recommendation.

Action Item:

- All committee members: upload any further edits, notes, ideas and any relevant documents relating to the Public Facilities section to the relevant folder or email them to Jeff, Nate & Drew.

6. New Business

a. Recreation Section

After some discussion it was determined that the committee would like to see an additional section on the arts rather than include it under recreation. Jeff did a great job pulling this together as far as he did but it's clear that a lot of this information needs to come from committee members' steeped in the cultural life of Hallowell. Topics mentioned that should be included under the new arts section are Chris Cart's history mural, Hallowell Granite Symposium, our unique music scene, the granite crane, and our annual festivals (Hallowell loves a parade!) Topics missing that could be added to the Recreation section include fishing, including smelt fishing in the winter, information on water access at the boat launch and more on conservation efforts.

Jeff will separate the two sections with the understanding that committee members will take an active role in filling in the missing pieces as follows:

Action Items:

- Jeff to separate out the arts section and let committee members know when they are ready for input.
- Andrew Landry will write up a section on the Hallowell music scene and on annual town wide events such as Old Hallowell Day for the Arts section.
- Deb Fahy & Julie Horn will start gathering information for the arts section, including photographs, which cannot be copyrighted images.
- Nate Rudy will check with the Ian Parker Foundation to see if they want to be included.
- Not assigned: The Recreation section will also need to be further fleshed out.

b. Historic Preservation Section

The committee returned to the "Discussion of Acknowledgement of Indigenous Inhabitants in Plan" agenda item that we tabled in July. This sparked a much broader discussion over the lack of acknowledgement of the contributions of women, people of color, LGBTQ people and immigrants, like the 19th century granite workers. Julie Horn shared that Kate Tremblay at the Vaughan Homestead has been conducting research in some of these areas and Deb Fahy reported that Chris Cart has been engaged in similar research to diversify content in his Hallowell History Mural. The committee was entirely supportive of the idea of presenting a fuller and more inclusive history of Hallowell in this document.

Julie Horn volunteered to head up a subcommittee to rework this section. Matt Scease, Drew Landry, John Bastey, Patrick Cunningham, Mo AuCoin and Nate Rudy all volunteered to participate.

There were also issues with the description of Stevens Commons being out of date - Jeff will reach out to Matt Morrill.

Action Items:

- Julie Horn will chair the history section subcommittee and call its first meeting.
- Nate Rudy will arrange a meeting with city historian Sam Webber, and Deb Fahy will consult with Sam about the list of historic properties.

7. Discussion of Survey - see item 4

8. Other Items/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:39pm. The next meeting on 6pm Thursday September 17 will be online via Zoom. Meetings take place monthly on the 3rd Thursday and the public is always welcome to attend. The zoom link can always be found on the meeting date on the calendar on the city website: <https://hallowell.govoffice.com/>

Respectfully submitted by Deb Fahy, Secretary

File location (along with other August meeting materials restricted to committee access only)

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Comprehensive%20Plan/meetings/20200820>

Finalized documents are available for public access on the Hallowell City Website:

Home > Government > Boards and Committees > Comprehensive Planning Group

https://hallowell.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={20DB666D-1191-493F-84BD-773246D680F3}