

Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission

January 20, 2020; 7 pm Hallowell Fire Station

2020 meeting schedule - 3rd Monday of the month: Mar16, Apr20, May 18, June15

Present: Rosemary Presnar, Chair; Cathie Murray, Deb Sewall, Kelly Yokoyama, Karen Simpson, Secretary

A. Call to Order: December minutes approved: motion to approve - Cathie; second: Deb

B. 2020 Officers: Rosemary will continue as Chair; Karen as secretary

C. HCC Strategic Planning: Long and Short Term Goals

As HCC moves away from a mixed focus on recreation and conservation to a greater focus on conservation we are working to develop a strategic plan with long and short term goals.

- Offer inputs as the Comprehensive Plan 2010 is reviewed: what's done, what still needs to be done
- Work with city officials to better enforce the state statute requiring that a town or city share any plan for conservation or open spaces with relevant agencies
- Develop a better understanding of the City's Online GIS resource and the Maine geolibrary data catalog to see how HCC can better use these resources for strategic and tactical planning. Kat Schweikert will guide us through this at our February meeting
- Other key conservation areas: water sampling at Berry Field, RES and Vaughan Stream, in part to determine the effects of the City snow dump at the corner of Winthrop and Town Farm Road and other Town Farm Rd area development on Vaughan Stream
- Other potential projects: Develop a plan to reduce plastic bag use and lawn pesticides; HCC logo; update HCC brochure

D. Effie Berry Conservation Area

- Review neighborhood "white diamond" trail cut by Alan Stearns from Conservation Area to Reed Center; encourage neighborhood connecting trails
- Need for conservation style Dog Waste signs here and at numerous City properties
- In Spring 2020 work with KLT to install a culvert to fix the wet area on the trail below the pond. This will allow City mowing equipment into the field. Possibly the community could be invited to view the installation, making this an educational event
- Continue invasive removal in the spring around Pond and create permanent signage for the kiosk

E. Hallowell Recreation Area/RES

- Funding approved in the FY20 budget will be redirected to title search on issues uncovered and highlighted in the latest survey plan and report. The work is being done by Lake & Denison, Winthrop
- Signs are needed at RES entrance and at the beach. A winter usage sign will be installed soon. Dog waste signs are badly needed.

F. Granite City Park

- There are two projects planned for spring: a pollinator sign for the crane garden and purchase of tarps to cover (and hopefully eradicate) the knotweed patch
- HCC kiosk on Rail Trail may need some maintenance, new cork board

G. Budget Review for FY2021 (Jul'20-Jun21)

The remainder of this year's budget (total \$3600) has been allocated to: Maine Invasive Plant guides for HCC members, Public Works, City Hall and the library; a pollinator sign for the garden in Granite Park; entrance signs for the RES, permanent signs for Berry Field, tarps for invasive plant control, Berry culvert; Jamies Pond signs and tall loppers for brown tail moth web removal (including one that might be checked out from the library).

H. Manchester CC RTCA

We will continue to work and coordinate with Garry Hinkley on the Manchester RTCA project.

I. Plans for Earth Day/Week (Week of April 22): Cathie

Cathie is pulling together a working group to plan Earth Day events.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm
Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson, Secretary