

Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission

April 20, 2020; 7 pm Virtual meeting via Zoom

2020 meeting schedule - 3rd Monday of the month: May 18, June 15. No meetings scheduled July and August

Present: Rosemary Presnar, Chair; Cathie Murray, Ben Godsoe, Kelly Yokoyama, Kat Schweikert; Cathie Murray; Karen Simpson, Secretary

Guest: Danielle Parker, College of the Atlantic & Jamie's Pond student intern

A. Call to Order: February minutes approved (March meeting cancelled - no minutes)

B. Danielle Parker: Update on Jamie's Pond signage and mapping project

Danielle a student of Human Ecology at COA, will assess the signage at Jamie's Pond, replace if needed and coordinate maps and signs, also making that information accessible by phone. This is a 6 week project, ending June 5. Rosemary will connect with Danielle once/week for updates.

C. HCC Strategic Planning: Review 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update for Land Use Current Conditions: 0316 version

Commission members reviewed the current land use maps provided by the state for errors and omissions before they are opened to the public. The consensus of the Commission was that the maps needed some redoing for greater accuracy. Some questions and suggestions:

- Why lump together commercial, industrial and agricultural zones?
- Could a layer be added to show paved areas?
- Should cannabis production be classified business or agricultural?
- Can additional areas be added to resource protection layer (Only one listed is Cascade Pond with its stream access to the river)
- Given that the map needs to be redone, what is the most effective way to give feedback?
- Next step: Rosemary will submit errors and corrections to the Comprehensive Plan Group before they release the document to the public

D. Effie Berry Conservation Area: Continued discussion

- Naming of Pond/Stream - On hold for the near future
- Firetrucks, responding to a fire above The Ridges, dug deep ruts into access road to Berry Field. Matt has provided rocks and fabric to provide a temporary solution. KLT will replace the bog bridge more substantially in the fall.
- Continued invasive removal is planned for May, limiting volunteers to 2 or 3 at a time.
- We will work with the Public Safety Commission to create a crosswalk from the end of High Street, across Winthrop, to the Fire Station. Many top of the hill residents cross Winthrop to walk to Howard Hill, around Stevens Complex or to the Farmer's Market. Lack of visibility, for both pedestrian and driver, is a serious safety hazard.

E. RES/Hallowell Recreation Area

Rosemary has requested that Public Works keep the gate to the RES locked until the parking lot dries out. This could be May 15 or even later. Limiting parking to the lot on Town Farm Road will also help keep the number of people using the trails at a safe number.

F. Granite City Park

- Kelly and Karen have been working together to design an educational pollinator sign to be posted at the Crane Garden
- HCC kiosk on Rail Trail needs maintenance, new (or repaired) cork board. Rosemary will assess.
- Two large areas of knotweed are now tarped. On Earth Day volunteers will cut knotweed next to the boulders along the river, allowing this area to be mowed on a regular basis (and hopefully discourage the knotweed).

H. I. Manchester CC RTCA

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

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson, Secretary

Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission

May 18, 2020; 7 pm Virtual meeting via Zoom

2020 meeting schedule - June 15. No meetings scheduled July and August

Present: Rosemary Presnar, Chair; Deb Sewall, Ben Godsoe, Kelly Yokoyama, Kat Schweikert, Karen Simpson: Secretary

Call to Order: Scheduled guests, Wes Davis(Tree Board) and Danielle Parker(Jamies Pond signs), were unable to attend

B. Kelly's design for HCC logo

Kelly is designing a logo for Conservation Commission use on signs, official documents and possibly T-shirts. Kelly wants to make it "clean, simple and Hallowellian." She asked for input about what image we feel should be projected and will send out samples for comment. Initial use of the logo will be on the Pollinator sign for the Crane Garden.

C. Revision of Public Boat Launch Redesign - HCC and Vision Hallowell sent a request and the City Council passed a motion at its December meeting to request a public information session prior proceeding with changes to the boat launch. The information session was not held; nevertheless, the State has approval from the Planning Board(PB) as of June 2019 to upgrade the ramp, add a dock and enlarge the parking area to accommodate launching larger boats. HCC was not informed of the June 2019 PB review per State Statue and residents are against the loss of green space, size of the proposed parking lot and loss of valuable trees and a buffer zone along the river. Citizens appeared before HCC for ask for our help to revise the plan so it would include only ramp and the dock replacement. Rosemary plans to attend the Planning Board meeting on May 20, 2020 to present HCC objections.

D. Effie Berry Conservation Area

There continues to be a need to improve the wet trail areas at Berry. Area was visited by Dave Rocque, State Soil Specialist on May 15, with KLT, Deb, Rosemary, and Matt Morrill. Dave pulled soil plugs and suggested solutions to include a stone ford at pond outlet and a vegetation swale on south entrance to field; his suggest for top of field was to move trail west into woods. Matt offered rocks and KLT offered geotextile fabric for pond outflow project. Ongoing meetings with KLT, HCC, Public Works, and Matt will determine timing and palnning for stone ford and vegetation swale projects.

May 26 is the date for rerouting the trail to Howard Hill away from the current wet edge of the field. KLT will then cut a new access route through woods on the upper edge of the field.

E. RES/Hallowell Recreation Area

The City will keep the gate to the RES locked for the time being due to covid-19 concerns. Limiting parking to the lot on Town Farm Road will help keep the number of people using the trails at a safe number.

Title work updates on three findings from Lake&Denison will be presented at the Property Committee on Jun 4. Findings will be shared with MCC and allow us to better coordinate with MCC's RTCA project.

CeMeNEMBA may submit a proposal this year to reroute the steep approach to/from Piney Woods single track off of the Pipeline Trail. HCC will need to review and Recreation Comm approve.

F. Granite City Park

Kelly and Karen have been working together to design an educational pollinator sign for Crane Garden Rosemary will order supplies to replace the cork on the HCC kiosk on Rail Trail.

On Earth Day volunteers cut knotweed next to the boulders along the river, allowing this area to be mowed on a regular basis (and hopefully discourage more knotweed). Additional cutting has been done on the "field of knotweed" north of the Crane Garden & Peter added additional tarps.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson, Secretary