

Hallowell Conservation Commission – Monday, Sept 19 2022 – Meeting Minutes
Hallowell Fire Station, Coos Lane, 6:30pm

Minutes

1. Call to Order, acknowledge quorum, introduce guests and/or public comments
--Attendance: Rosemary Presnar, Ben Godsue, Jean McWilliams, Maureen Drouin
--No Public comments.
2. Agenda additions/changes -- Add: Jumping Worms and PFAS.
3. Review & Approve Last Meeting Minutes – None, completed in June.
4. Future meeting schedule – keep as is, add ZOOM audio option to 3rd Monday of month, HFS, 6:30pm.
5. Outer Central Street public right-of-way access – question to HCC by Scott Cowger – HCC is interested in learning more; Rosemary will contact a) Scott to walk area with HCC members & b) CEO Doug Ide on ROW existence. Area is now posted “No Trespassing” with a name/address on sign.
6. Berry Conservation Area – Oct 26 at 1pm (rain date 10/27) set as work days for invasives in field, Cathie Murray is prime contact, Rosemary sent out call for volunteers.
7. Planning Board – HCC will deliver a statement in favor of solar farm development proposed for off of Balsam Dr.; Ben to draft; Rosemary will deliver remarks at 9/21 PB meeting.
8. Vaughan Brook Watershed water quality monitoring – numerous volunteers were engaged with HCC Jun thru Sept for 8 sets of VRMP dissolved oxygen & specific conductance readings and 2 sessions for Stream Explorers macroinvertebrate collections. All data has been sent to State; analysis for 2022 and 2023 plan will happen over the winter.
9. Grow Green & Healthy Hallowell project group – ordinance is in review with the Ordinance Rewrite Committee, next meeting Oct 5. HCC will continue to support any printing of materials for community awareness and education.
10. Community Resiliency Partnership (CRP) & Hallowell Climate Action project group– City has been accepted in CRP with Maureen and Kat ensuring all requirements were met over the summer; HCA is meeting to plan a Nov 15 pubic event at City Hall auditorium; HCC will support printing posters, if needed, and sponsor speaker for mileage and/or one night lodging. CRP Community Action Grant application was written by Rosemary; Deb F reviewed draft; reviewed/signed by City Manager; and will be submitted on 9/20 for an all-electric vehicle for HPD.
11. Granite City Park Working Group – on track to complete Project Canopy grant work by end of September; In October watering, one Saturday and Day of Caring work days will happen. Plan is for Working Group to submit final park report to City Council in November.
12. Updated Open Space List – Jean has outline, will meet with Rosemary to review.
13. October 22 – MEACC’s annual conference in Brunswick. Any attendees need to RSVP to Fred Snow, fws319@aol.com
14. Member Roundtable & added agenda items:
--Asian Jumping Worms – 2 residents reported presence of Asian jumping worms on their property. Invasive species that degrades soil; we need to be aware of; ensure to reduce any spread; ask around if other instances in Hallowell especially in public spaces, brush dump area, etc. No other actions at this time. [Information sheet for home owners link](#)
--PFAS/PFOS – concern by HCC members about what if any action is being taken by the City or HWD on mitigating PFAS in public water-“what is the plan?”. Hallowell’s public water supply has some of the highest levels in Kennebec River watershed. US EPA due to reduce acceptable levels. Consensus is to education ourselves, figure out decision makers, raise concerns to HWD and Council once we learn more. (Ben, Maureen, & Rosemary have to-dos)
15. Adjourn at 8:00pm – Next Meeting Reminder – Oct 17 at HFS In person + ZOOM

Respectively submitted
Rosemary Presnar, Chair