

Hallowell Conservation Commission – Monday, February 27, 2023 Minutes
Hallowell Fire Station, Coos Lane, 6:30pm -- In Person.

Minutes

1. Jean Recorder; Rosemary Presnar, Karen Simpson, Hilary Neckles, Maureen Drouin, Malena Gatti, Ben Godsue, Jean McWilliams present.
No guests were present.
2. January 23, 2023 minutes approved as written. Updates on Expenses, Budget -- there is still enough money to pay for the March 26 workshop, a banner, Earth Day support items, GG&HH educational materials printing support, if needed.
3. Planning Board alerts – none.
4. 2023-24 HCC Planning Review: a) [existing project list](#) -- added focus on open space advocacy for public lands as first priority, then we will add some level of outreach to private land owners; Discussed strategies to maintain farms and tree growth. b) [2022 Comp Plan Implementation Plan](#) -- Ties to 2022 Comp Plan strategies: reviewed the comprehensive plan goals and discussed which organization/committee is assigned to each goal focusing on HCC assignments. Further discussed what HCC can actually control. Reviewed climate related goals and assignments. Members will review the list and provide feedback. The list will be on google docs, link above)
5. Review [Open Space List and current zoning](#) information - City owned parks are locally zoned as RF (rural farm), including part of the Rez property; Vaughan Field is zoned residential. Reviewed the definition and allowed uses of open space and rural farm. Some of these properties may be more appropriately zoned open space. Some of the language should be updated. Ben will address first draft; Rosemary will bring up at Recreation Commission meetings.
6. GG & HH status - Karen provided an update on the land management ordinance; First reading has been approved, next meeting is a Public Hearing, March 13.
7. Hallowell Climate Action/CRP status - Hilary/Maureen noted Efficiency Maine workshop planning; next CRP grant opportunity has been delayed to June timeframe; Malena described plans for a new website for Hallowell sustainability collaboration with climate and recreation as well as tree board and recycling groups.
8. Berry Conservation Area – Rosemary updated about the Jan 24 KLT & City of Augusta/Howard Hill/Berry CA meeting. More trail upgrades planned; KLT hopes to obtain grant funding and incorporate all accessible trails. There will be a parking area off Ganneston Drive, City of Augusta planning for 2024.

9. Recreation Commission meeting – Thursday, March 2, noon-1pm. Rosemary will initially attend; Malena volunteered to be new HCC rep on Recreation Commission.
10. Tree Board is planning on submitting another Project Canopy application for Granite City Park; due date March 22. HCC will do support letter by March 10.
11. 2023 Proposed Events/Partnerships –
 - A) Landscaping for Biodiversity & Water Quality Talk– March 26, 2pm, Coos Lane Fire Station. Deb Perkins (firstlighthabitats.com)
 - B) Earth Day – April 22, Granite City Park – Vision Hallowell, HCC, Tree Board, etc.
 - C) Jamies Pond Cleanup – June 3

Adjourn at 8:15pm – 2023 Meeting Reminders – **Mar 20**, Apr 24, May 15, Jun 12

Additional Conservation Commission Watch Items - Updates

- a. PFAS remediation – (FEB 13 Update: Rosemary reminded City Council that an update is due from HWD on their actions.) No specific long-term plans from City Council nor HWD as of Nov 2022; short-term filtered water access to residents by March 2023 at HWD building.
- b. Future PWs garage construction and natural resources impacts – Feb Update: City has bought the Pinnacle Dr lot (off of Central St just west of I95), real estate closing planned for March 2023 timeframe.
- c. RES/National Guard parcel – Feb 06 Update: VLA Committee heard testimony from Hallowell reps and Guard; Rep Dan Shagoury, City Mgr & Mayor to negotiate with Guard as next steps and report back solution to VLA Comm. In Jan 2023, Rep. Dan Shagoury submitting LD 230 to address timeline of sale. In 2022 LD 1852 passed via help from Sen Hickman to add parcel to NG property disposition list
- d. RES: Proposed GAUD use of defunct sewer line through RES along Pipeline Trail (Update on Feb 13: GAUD briefed City Council that NO work, even scoping pipeline for feasibility has begun to date. However, still in their long-term planning (new line from Manchester to Augusta to replace old one along Rt 202/Western Ave)

*Minutes respectively submitted,
Jean McWilliams*