

## **Hallowell Conservation Commission – Monday, May 15, 2023**

**Hallowell Fire Station, Coos Lane, 6:30pm -- In Person.**

Members present: Kat, Ben, Rosemary(recorder), Karen, Jean, Malena

### **MINUTES**

1. Public comments - none; Public Questions on LMO – none.
2. Approve last month's Minutes – April minutes approved as presented; Rosemary will forward to City Clerk.
3. RES and CeMeNEBMA annual trail review – Karen will report on RES trails in June.
4. Review 2<sup>nd</sup> draft (dated 5-1-23) of Open Space Ordinance
  - Ben & Hilary captured last month's updates in this version – thank you!
  - Discussed if historic properties (such as High St DAR site) should be added as well as cemetery- decided to hold this topic by a broader review by other committees
  - Does not seem to be any formal names for High St or Second St “parks”
  - Karen will reach out to Kate at VW Homestead and Ben will reach out to KLT – give both until June 1 to reply on Vaughan Woods description and inputs on uses.
  - Any typos and repeated line under conditional uses will be fixed in next draft version.
  - After VWs/KLT inputs, next version will be sent to Property Committee (mtg tbd) and Recreation Commission (Jun 6, 7:30pm meeting) for reviews
5. Hallowell sustainability website update – Malena is contacting each committee for potential content.
6. GG & HH update:
  - Karen reported GGHH team met several times since March to review changes to LMO based on public meeting inputs; team sent recommendations to Mayor, Councilors Frett & Martin on April 25.
  - Also, in March, Councilor Martin proposed some changes that directly impact the HCC. HCC was not consulted on these changes submitted in March on the enforcement section, fertilizer & water quality connections, nor watershed monitoring and testing. GGHH received the March changes on May 3 and alerted HCC(Rosemary). The GGHH team responded to the March changes on May 17 and Rosemary addressed the HCC ties basically restating what the Ordinance Rewrite Committee landed on last year around our enforcement role.
  - Both sets of changes should be in front of Council for their May 24 Special Meeting.
7. HCA/CRP update:
  - CRP summer grant round: City Mgr and Hilary are meeting on 5/18 with consultants to get an estimate to prepare for grant for City Hall full energy audit and potential energy efficiency upgrades
  - Window Dressers: this is a go in partnership with Manchester Conservation Commission. Volunteers are needed to train as measurers and there will be other volunteer opportunities to support a November Community Build at the Hallowell Multicultural Center. Contact Hilary for info on volunteering.
8. Recreation Commission – Malena reported Rec Comm is working their way through ordinance outlining their responsibilities; next meeting is June 6. HCC will present draft Open Space Ordinance; Rosemary or Ben will attend to go thru draft.
9. 4/25 HCC Chair meeting with City Manager -- Rosemary met with Gary on HCC punch list including: a local business donation to HCC does not have to go thru Council, City Mgr and Treasurer can process; Reminder that additional deed work may be needed after National Guard property is resolved at RES; HCC is sponsoring GGHH lawn pilot plot at HFS, no hardscaping, just new soil, grass, educational signage, and maybe a ground cover; asked for 2 new wooded picnic tables for GCP; mentioned granite retaining

walls at GCP flagpole and crane areas are getting worse; PWs mowing at Berry Conservation Area Trail for summer and potential support in Fall to reinforce road with riprap between pond and meadow, City to provide riprap and KLT will provide backhoe and spread. Should be doable plus PWs may be hiring 5<sup>th</sup> person; finally, gave Gary a heads up on HCC/Sustainability website.

#### 10. Volunteer Events or Debriefs

- a) May GCP flood debris clean-up: HCC and Tree Board volunteers were at the park on the Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday following flood. Grassy areas, newly planted areas, pollinator garden and shoreline boulders and path have been all cleared of debris; concern why rocks, silt and dirt from parking lot were moved on to a large grassy area where picnic tables typically reside; Rosemary will follow up with City Manager on plans for either reseeding or removing.
- b) Thursday, May 25th [rain date Friday, May 26th], 8:30 AM - noon-ish, for Stream Explorers at Vaughan Stream at Little League parking area (Hilary)
- c) Jamies Pond Cleanup – June 3 with Manchester CC – postponed this year. Trails are in decent shape per MCC rep; entrance road may not be repaired prior Jun 3. Key HCC and MCC contacts are not available this year on June 3.
- d) June 12 HCC meeting will be rescheduled for group to go out at a downtown restaurant for end of season cheer. Rosemary will send out dates for consideration.

- #### 11. Planning Board(PB) alerts –
- a) May 16 public site visit at proposed Pleasant St Solar. HCC support letter with recommendations sent to Apr PB meeting was accepted as part of record.
  - b) There was an update per request from Doug Ide to the reference map HCC submitted to City Council on April 10 regarding the Central St/Pinnacle Dr land purchase. After conferring with Doug, the “Wetland 250” overlay will be taken off map, it is not an “official” overlay; the “Shoreland 250” is the correct one. Either way, there are wetland areas on west side of lot as well as the north side near Central St.

**Adjourned 8:10pm – 2023 Meeting Reminders – Jun 12 to be canceled & NO monthly meetings until September.**

#### **Additional Conservation Commission Watch Items**

- 2022 Comp Plan updates – Apr 19 email to Mayor & Councilor Aucoin on how Council would like updates; reminder sent 5/7.
- RES: Proposed GAUD use of defunct sewer line through RES along Pipeline Trail (Update as of May 5 – GAUD starting to scope pipeline. Feb 13 update: GAUD briefed City Council that NO work, even scoping pipeline for feasibility has begun to date.
- Manchester Woods trail project – Phase 1 Kerns Hill Rd Connector trail complete. Phase 2 (March 2022 RTP grant for \$45k with approved extension) project in process for Summer of 2023 for completion of the 3-4 miles of trails that will connect to RES.

*May Draft Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Presnar  
6/1/2023*