

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

