

Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission

February 17, 2020; 7 pm Hallowell Fire Station

2020 meeting schedule - 3rd Monday of the month: Mar16, Apr20, May 18, June15

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

A. Call to Order: January minutes approved

B. 2020 Officers: Rosemary will continue as Chair; Karen as secretary

C. HCC Strategic Planning: Long and Short Term Goals

As HCC moves away from a mixed focus on recreation and conservation to a greater focus on conservation we are working to develop a strategic plan with long and short term goals. We will devote time each month to review past plans - Open Space Plan 2007 and Comprehensive Plan 2010 - to determine what has been done and what remains to be completed. To ground our efforts we reviewed two available resources: the City's online GIS resource: [www.axisgis.com/hallowell me/](http://www.axisgis.com/hallowellme/) and the Maine geolibary data catalog: [https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced viewer/](https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advancedviewer/). We will be looking into whether we can add additional layers for new data we believe to be important (i.e streams, wetlands). Our next meeting will focus on land use policies as well as incentives for preserving open space.

D. Effie Berry Conservation Area: Continued discussion

- Naming of Pond/Stream - Cathie to reach out to school if they are interested to be involved
- Review neighborhood "white diamond" trail cut by Alan Stearns from Conservation Area to Reed Center; encourage neighborhood connecting trails
- Kelly has designed a sign reminding dog owners to "scoop the poop" for use here and on other city properties (notably the RES).
- In Spring 2020 connect and confirm work with KLT to install a culvert to fix the wet area on the trail below the pond. This will allow City mowing equipment into the field. Possibly the community could be invited to view the installation, making this an educational event
- Continue invasive removal in May and create permanent signage for the kiosk

E. RES/Hallowell Recreation Area

Winter sign use posted at entrance

F. Brownfields Committee concerning Buckeye property

Ben and Rosemary have met with the City Manager about turning this property into a conserved public space. Several ideas were proposed for partnerships (perhaps KLT) to clean up the space and possible sources of grant money to hire contractors to do the job. Also discussed were ideas for using the onsite building, the granite pier and controlling access to the property.

F. Snow Dump (corner of Winthrop and Town Farm Road) concerns

Based on a Comprehensive Plan goal to protect and conserve clean water, the Commission raised concerns about road salt and debris draining into the stream that flows through the field and into Cascade Pond. Several questions and next steps were discussed: determine what winter road mix Public Works is using on roads in a snowstorm and investigate possible water testing -Cathie

G. 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 may need some maintenance, new (or repaired) cork board. Rosemary will assess

H. Public Boat Landing

The state has determined that there will be no major changes to the parking lot by the boat ramp area and that it will only replace the concrete ramp. Therefore, there will be no need for a public meeting.

I. Manchester CC RTCA

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

J. Earth Day

Cathie is pulling together a working group to plan Earth Day events.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson, Secretary