

**Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission -**

**Tuesday May 1, 2018 - 7pm - Hallowell City Hall Auditorium**

Present: Rosemary Presnar, Chair; Deb Sewall, Cathie Murray, Ben Godsoe, Jon Lund, Karen Simpson, Secretary

**A. Call to Order: March minutes approved: Jon; second: Deb**

**B. Effie L Berry Conservation Area**

- Ben Sturtevant and Erin Lloyd, KLT stewards for the property, were invited to attend the meeting. We discussed our working relationship, aligning work proposed in the field with agreements between KLT and the City, outlined in the Conservation Easement.
- Plan to do any clearing on edges of field will “wait until the dust settles” (Jon)
- Carlton Blanche has mowed the field in the past. Rosemary will work with Public Works and contact Carlton to see if he is still interested. Goal would be to discuss with him how to balance best timing for haying and our priorities for wildlife protection. We will also consider advantages of a mowed “path” vs mowed “field”
- Ideas were suggested for the large sign to be placed in kiosk at field entrance: map of area including trail entrances to Howard Hill, list of allowable uses, history of the property, etc. Will wait on design until Howard Hill trail entrance info and funding is available.
- The City Manager has given the go ahead to set pins marking the 8 corners of the property; this work has been completed and KLT is finishing the baseline documentation.

**C. Jamie’s Pond update & potential trail work day**

- 4/18/18 update from Keel Kemper: The crew completed cutting ahead of time due to concerns that an early thaw would make the soil vulnerable to rutting and damage from machinery. The contractor did not meet his 500 cord quota so may want permission to complete the harvest next winter.
- Trails need to be assessed before determining a trail day. Rosemary and available HCC members will survey the property, then choose a future trail workday, if needed.
- Extra volunteers would be helpful for clean up; perhaps the Manchester HCC could be invited to assist.

**D. NPS - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program**

- The working group of Res stakeholders will continue to meet monthly prior to the HCC meeting. Minutes will be available separately.
- Kat Schweikert (Blue Marble Graphics volunteer!) will walk the trails at the Res as prep for GPS mapping
- It has been noted that HCC and the Recreation Commission have different responsibilities that sometimes overlap. In order to work together most effectively, a clear decision making matrix may need to be discussed and worked out.

**E. Ongoing Projects and Priorities:**

- Work with City Manager and the City Council to include funding for a Res survey in the next annual budget. HCC will provide a draft of RES boundary survey RFP to City Manager early June for consideration for June Council meeting. (Cathie)
- Continue monthly NPS meetings for the RES.
- Cathie and Ben will work on updating the Open Space inventory

- Invasives removal - Peter has cleared large patches at RES; also need to look at Rail Trail Wall, Vaughan Field and Waterfront.
- Support and work with the city on Down With The Crown. Possible events include talks by geologist Bob Marvinney about the geologic history of Hallowell, and by the Natural Resources Council about how the Clean Water Act changed the Kennebec River, a program on bats, and an invasive removal activity such as “Bamboo and Brews”. Augusta Birding Club will hold several migratory bird walks at the Res in May.

**F. City Council Meeting coverage: May 07 -Ben; June 11 -?; July 09 -?**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:25pm**

Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson, Secretary

**Next meeting HCC: June 5 - 7:00pm; NPS - RTCA meeting at 5:30.**