

Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission

November 18, 2019 Hallowell Fire Station

2019-20 meeting schedule - 3rd Monday of the month: Dec16, Jan20, Feb17, Mar16, Apr20, May 18, June15

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

Guests: Maggie Warren and David Wood representing Vision Hallowell

A. Call to Order: September minutes approved

B. Phase 2 Design of Hallowell Public Boat Launch

Maggie Warren and David Wood asked for Conservation Commission support to request a public information session before the Maine Department of AFC submits a second Request for Proposal to enlarge the parking space at the Hallowell Public Boat Launch. There is concern that residents have not had an opportunity to be informed about the proposed redesign and to speak to the issue. They feel that since the Planning Board approved the plan in June without a public site review, the needs of many users of the site have not been sufficiently considered.

Specifically:

- Large, trailed rigs could disrupt downtown traffic and the multi-use bike lane on Water Street
- Enlarging the current boat launch would cost green space and negatively impact residents who currently use the space as a park and recreation area
- Increased size of the parking spaces for the large trailed rigs would change the character of the southern end of town.
- Adequate launch sites for large boats already exist nearby in Augusta, Gardiner, Richmond and Bowdoinham. Rosemary has written a letter to the City Councillors at Large supporting a public information meeting.

C. Day of Caring RSU2 feedback

Team leaders from each work site have offered feedback to the Day of Caring coordinators. Their thoughts and suggestions will be sent on to the coordinators.

D. Budget

This year's budget (\$3600) has been allocated to: Maine Invasive Plant guides for HCC members, Public Works, City Hall and the library; a pollinator sign for the garden in Granite Park; entrance signs and kiosks for the RES, tarps for invasive plant control, Berry culvert, Jamies Pond signs and tall loppers for brown tail moth web removal

E. Effie L. Berry Conservation Area

- Field mowing for Fall 2019 has been completed. KLT mowed 1/3 of the field (south end) and the edges, leaving 2/3 of the field unmowed to support pollinators
- October 19 workday enlisted 6 volunteers who accomplished invasive root cutting and removal, posting boundaries with KLT triangles, adding stakes to corner pins
- Spring 2020 goals- fix wet area on trail below the pond to allow City mowing equipment passage; continue invasive removal and trail signage updates

F. Hallowell Recreation Area (the RES)

- Design entrance signage - beach signage
- Discuss rerouting Piney Loop and Wildflower trails entrance, to relieve erosion, in coordination with MBA club

- Follow-up items from RTCA project: signed MOUs (MBA complete, need snowmobile); private land owners and trail crossing; Forest Management Plan
- Final NPS/RTCA report was submitted to the Recreation Commission on Sept 18
- All 30 wooden trail signs have been installed on Quarry and Pipeline trails
- RES boundary survey mostly complete. Funding approved in FY20 budget for completing the corner pins

G. Manchester CC RTCA

KLT is looking at trail feasibility at Bog Pond East, adjacent to the RES. Hallowell HCC members will participate when needed and invited.

H. Bow Hunter informations (Cathie)

The city ordinance affecting bow hunting can be seen as confusing and is scheduled for a rewrite. At present there is conflicting information about hunting in the RES. Hunting may be allowed on this side of the highway, but only with police permission. However, an old map allows hunting in the woods at Vaughan Homestead. The current ordinance is not clear about the use of hunting stands. The Ordinance Rewrite Committee will be working to clarify all issues.

I. Other topics

- Sarah Shed has submitted her resignation. HCC is looking for new members
- May - Oct 2019 - HCC has completed at least 7 workdays and logged in over 100 hours (not including the Crane Garden or Day of Caring)
- We have 261 followers on HCC Facebook page; 70+ emails contacts

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson, Secretary