

Hallowell Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Sept 16, 2019 7pm
Hallowell Fire Station

Present: Chair Rosemary Presnar, Ben Godsoe, Deb Sewall, Sarah Shed

1. We noted there were no minutes from June meeting; Commission did not meet in July nor August but held several work days at Berry Conservation Area to remove invasives. Each workday had 5-7 community volunteers due to announcements via Facebook and emails.
2. Commission reviewed possible new members. Rosemary will contact two prospects for end of year consideration.
3. Commission agreed that projects/priorities for this year include following up on trail work and management of the RES, especially follow up items from NPS/RTCA project; management of Effie Berry Conservation Area; engaging with Tree Board around trees on public property and ROWs; and caring for open spaces within the City.
4. Upcoming Events & HCC involvement
 - a. Day of Caring, October 10. Rosemary will contact RSU2 (Jen Paisley) & Peter S. re our involvement in students public service day.
 - b. Howard Hill Historical Park Dedication, Oct 10. Conservation Commission will welcome guests at Berry CA parking area. Rosemary will post signs that guide people to the starting point.
 - c. October 19: HCC Work day at Berry in order to post western boundary & around pond with KLT triangles, make pins more visible, do trail clean up and invasive control work.
5. Effie L. Berry Conservation Area
 - a. New wildflowers are filling in along entrance where invasive clearing has been done. Deb and Rosemary did trail edge clean up earlier in the month.
 - b. The wet area on trail below pond never dried enough to allow public works equipment passage to mow trail. Mastway crew mowed trail this summer. Commission will ask Jean-Luc at KLT for help designing a culvert for this section of the trail. This could be a demonstration project. Rosemary will recognize within City and thank Matt Morrill/Mastway on behalf of Commission.
 - c. Field management and field mowing: at June 2019 meeting, HCC decided to cut 1/3 cut of field annually in order to maximize benefits for pollinators and other wildlife.
6. Hallowell Recreation Area (the RES)
 - a. Rosemary completed a final report on NPS/RTCA grant work, including tasks that need to be followed up on. She will submit it to the Recreation Commission.
 - b. Hallowell Public Works worked with Rosemary to install posts for trail signs this summer.
 - c. HCC will work with Bike Club to propose a design reroute of Piney Loop and Wildflower trails entrance off of Pipeline trail. Goal would be installing in spring, 2020.
7. RES Boundary Survey
 - a. An abutter still has open questions on survey; as of Sept 5, Property Committee allowing another 2 weeks for inputs to send to surveyor for review.
 - b. Funding approved in FY20 budget for completing corner pins.
 - c. 2 posts have been installed at the entrance so there can be an entrance sign. Commission discussed possibly using granite from the property, similar to Granite City Park sign, at entrance.

8. Granite City Park
 - a. Invasive removal – Peter Spiegel continues to work on knotweed. It was cut multiple times and 20'x20' tarp pilot area is in place.
 - b. Karen Simpson led design, installation and maintenance of a pollinator garden with help from enthusiastic volunteers. It is still looking good and has generated much public comment.

9. Great Wall/KRRT
Rosemary and Bill Allen worked on this area over the summer. DOT plans to replace plants that were accidentally destroyed.

10. Trail / Park Steward Process
Rosemary will propose process to Recreation Commission for adoption. Volunteer role would be to perform annual assessment/maintenance review of property and keep Recreation Commission/Public Works informed about conditions on/needs of public properties.

11. Volunteers / HCC membership feedback
 - HCC Facebook page has 252 followers. Email list has 70+ contacts

12. Manchester CC has applied for an RTCA grant for trail work on Manchester land abutting Res. New MCC chair is Jeff Janell.

13. HCC purchases for this year
 - next set of RES trail signs
 - entrance sign at Res
 - tarps for invasive work near Granite City Park

14. Signs re Hunting
Deb will post 2019 hunting dates at Berry CA.

15. 2019-20 Meeting Schedule will continue to be on 3rd Monday of the month: Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16, etc.

Next meeting October 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Sewall