

## **Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission**

**May 18, 2020; 7 pm Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**2020 meeting schedule - June 15. No meetings scheduled July and August**

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

**Call to Order:** Scheduled guests, Wes Davis(Tree Board) and Danielle Parker(Jamies Pond signs), were unable to attend

### **B. Kelly's design for HCC logo**

Kelly is designing a logo for Conservation Commission use on signs, official documents and possibly T-shirts. Kelly wants to make it "clean, simple and Hallowellian." She asked for input about what image we feel should be projected and will send out samples for comment. Initial use of the logo will be on the Pollinator sign for the Crane Garden.

**C. Revision of Public Boat Launch Redesign** - HCC and Vision Hallowell sent a request and the City Council passed a motion at its December meeting to request a public information session prior proceeding with changes to the boat launch. The information session was not held; nevertheless, the State has approval from the Planning Board(PB) as of June 2019 to upgrade the ramp, add a dock and enlarge the parking area to accommodate launching larger boats. HCC was not informed of the June 2019 PB review per State Statue and residents are against the loss of green space, size of the proposed parking lot and loss of valuable trees and a buffer zone along the river. Citizens appeared before HCC for ask for our help to revise the plan so it would include only ramp and the dock replacement. Rosemary plans to attend the Planning Board meeting on May 20, 2020 to present HCC objections.

### **D. Effie Berry Conservation Area**

There continues to be a need to improve the wet trail areas at Berry. Area was visited by Dave Rocque, State Soil Specialist on May 15, with KLT, Deb, Rosemary, and Matt Morrill. Dave pulled soil plugs and suggested solutions to include a stone ford at pond outlet and a vegetation swale on south entrance to field; his suggest for top of field was to move trail west into woods. Matt offered rocks and KLT offered geotextile fabric for pond outflow project. Ongoing meetings with KLT, HCC, Public Works, and Matt will determine timing and palnning for stone ford and vegetation swale projects.

May 26 is the date for rerouting the trail to Howard Hill away from the current wet edge of the field. KLT will then cut a new access route through woods on the upper edge of the field.

### **E. RES/Hallowell Recreation Area**

The City will keep the gate to the RES locked for the time being due to covid-19 concerns. Limiting parking to the lot on Town Farm Road will help keep the number of people using the trails at a safe number.

Title work updates on three findings from Lake&Denison will be presented at the Property Committee on Jun 4. Findings will be shared with MCC and allow us to better coordinate with MCC's RTCA project.

CeMeNEMBA may submit a proposal this year to reroute the steep approach to/from Piney Woods single track off of the Pipeline Trail. HCC will need to review and Recreation Comm approve.

### **F. Granite City Park**

Kelly and Karen have been working together to design an educational pollinator sign for Crane Garden Rosemary will order supplies to replace the cork on the HCC kiosk on Rail Trail.

On Earth Day volunteers cut knotweed next to the boulders along the river, allowing this area to be mowed on a regular basis (and hopefully discourage more knotweed). Additional cutting has been done on the "field of knotweed" north of the Crane Garden & Peter added additional tarps.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson, Secretary