

## **Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission**

**December 10, 2018 Hallowell Fire Station**

Present: Ben Godsoe, Acting Chair; Deb Sewall, Peter Spiegel, Jon Lund, Sarah Shed, Cathie Murray

Karen Simpson, Secretary

### **A. Call to Order: October minutes approved: Deb; second: Cathie**

### **B. Commission Administration**

Cathie provided us with a current list of Conservation Commission members and their term expiration dates. Two members, Deb and Ben, are up for reappointment in January. We are also looking to add new members committed to our mission.

### **C. Volunteer and Commissioner Recruitment**

Several steps have been taken to increase our volunteer network. Peter has developed a Google spread sheet to keep track of people who attend public HCC meetings, RES planning meetings or other educational events. There is now a "sign up" form on our Facebook page, asking users if they wish to volunteer and/or receive a newsletter. Thirty eight people have signed up to date. Ben has contacts to add to the list.

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

We continue to coordinate our work, including maps and signage, with Howard Hill. Eastern pins have been set. Western boundary boundary markers and those around the pond still need to be done.

### **E. Halldale Day of Caring and knotweed- further thoughts**

Peter followed up on his suggestion to buy heavy tarps for knotweed suppression at the boat landing. With the city discount they will cost \$50 each at Lowes. We discussed turning this into a community educational demonstration project by installing signs describing the project, its goals and documenting progress.

Further thoughts about the Day of Caring:

- Work with Halldale staff and students to create a vision so kids will feel ownership of their projects
- Discuss with school leaders the possibility of changing to a spring date (when invasive eradication is most effective)
- Reach out to the Board of Trade to get the local businesses aboard

### **F. RES Planning Project**

Will meet in January with the Recreation Commission to work on, among other things, a decision making process that will involve all stake holders and be consistent.

Next meetings: December 13, January 16, February 20, March 20

### **G. Browntail moth education**

Browntail moths have been observed at Halldale Elementary School and other locations in town. Cathie has heard that the School's Buildings and Grounds staff have plans for partial eradication of nests this winter around the Elementary School when the work is most effective. She is also planning an educational event to train the public in the most environmentally friendly ways to eliminate this pest.

**Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm** Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson, Secretary

**Next meeting:** If we continue to meet at the Fire Station we will need to change our meeting night from Tuesday (fireman training) to Monday. City Council meets the first Monday after the first Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are scheduled for the following Mondays: January 14, February 11, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17