

Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission

Tuesday September 13, 2018 - 7pm - Hallowell City Hall Auditorium

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

Call to Order: June minutes approved: Ben; second: Deb

B. Commission Administration for 2019

Rosemary will continue as Chair, Karen as Secretary

The yearly budget was approved at \$2286 which will cover costs of signage for the Res and Berry Field and tools, as needed, for Browntail moth eradication. HCC paid for the pins defining the boundaries of Berry Field in last year's allocation.

Cathie will clarify with Diane Polky term length for new HCC members who have been named to fill places of previous members who needed to retire before completing their terms

C. Volunteer and Commissioner Recruitment

- The Commission discussed various ways to maintain a strong volunteer network. Ideas discussed included using our Facebook page to call for a volunteer network in our community, working through KLT and Hallowell Arts Commission, a possible quarterly newsletter, community outreach through the upcoming Hall-Dale Day of Caring.
- Peter offered to develop a Google spreadsheet to keep all this information organized and easy to access.

D. Effie L Berry Conservation Area

- Rosemary reported that Hazen Clark mowed Berry Field in late August, the first mowing in two years.
- At a future meeting we will discuss a management plan that may recommend field mowing later in the fall with the goal of protecting pollinators balancing need for offsetting cost of cutting for usable hay
- Field stewards, Ben Sturtevant and Erin Lloyd, are proposing that they walk the boundaries once a year to check for possible encroachment by neighboring property owners
- Deb will coordinate with KLT to arrange a boundary walk this fall and follow-up meetings to develop and formalize a management plan

E. Halldale Day of Caring - October 12th

- Targeted sites will be the Boat Launch area and the RES
- Knotweed abounds even after annual cutting. Next possible step: tarp suppression

F. RES Boundary Survey

- Money for the survey has been included in this year's city budget. Rosemary will meet with the City Manager on next steps; HCC already submitted a draft scope for RFP

G. The RES Planning Project

- Ben reported there have been 208 responses to the RES survey that assessed community use of the Res and obtained data on user age, group affiliations, and recommendations for changes that would enhance experiences at the Res. These came from birders, bikers, dog walkers and city residents. The data will be compiled to assist the Project
- Layered maps have been created, including points of access and suggested trail names. Rosemary will coordinate all mapping data at the next Planning Project meeting. Kiosks are planned for the beach and at the Town Farm Road parking area; and trail signage to be completed in phases.
- Next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 5:30pm at Fire Station.

H. Browntail Moths in Central Maine

- Browntail moths have arrived in Central Maine and some have been spotted in Hallowell at the Elementary School. Cathie is proposing an educational event this winter so people can strategically remove webs and keep this pest under control. Winter web clipping, followed by soaking them in soapy water, is recommended by the Maine Department of Agriculture the best non-chemical way to control this pest.

Jamies Pond

- We will join the Manchester Conservation Commission for a trail clean-up day on the Forest Trail October 21, time tbd.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm Respectfully submitted,
Karen Simpson, Secretary

Our next meeting will be October 2nd.