

Minutes: Hallowell Conservation Commission

June 15, 2020; 7 pm Virtual meeting via Zoom

No meetings scheduled July and August; Next meeting September 21

Present: Rosemary Presnar, Chair; Deb Sewall, Ben Godsoe, Kelly Yokoyama, Kat Schweikert, Karen Simpson: Secretary. Kat Schweikert is now an official HCC member.
Guest: Wes Davis, Hallowell Tree Board

Wes Davis, 12 year Chair of the Tree Board, updated us on current projects

- Work is underway on a tree inventory to be added to City Online GIS maps
- Over 200 trees, purchased through various grant programs, have been planted around Hallowell to replace those lost in the ice storm of '98
- Donations have been collected to purchase and plant a memorial tree for Nancy Clement at Granite City Park
- Emerald Ash borers have arrived in Maine and several have been found in the city. The Board will work on strategies to preserve our ash trees, setting out purple traps where needed.

Hallowell Recreation Area (RES)

- Title work updates of 3 findings in progress with Lake & Dennison and Property Committee
 - ~Still a question of ownership of Little Egypt Quarry - the City or the Ballards
 - ~11 acres in the NW corner dissected by Beacon Road - question of ownership still ongoing
 - ~Agreement that the State owns part of Beacon Road - but which part?
- The brush dump is currently closed due to infringement on Laflin property and not meeting DEP water protection regulations. Public Works is looking at several new sites but meanwhile will accept brush and leaves at their Water Street facility.
- A reroute of Piney Loop and Wildflower entrance off Pipeline Trail is planned. MBA will submit a proposal to HCC this summer. Trail must be constructed to accommodate multi-use.

Effie L. Berry Conservation Area

- Trail through Berry Field was rerouted due to erosion and wet areas in current access. The new trail crosses the NW side of Berry to the Augusta tree line, merging with the Howard Hill Trail. Work involved KLT, HCC and Matt Morrill. The wide mowed trail was completed June 4th
- Matt Morrill can provide crushed rock to sandwich the trail gap, currently crossed on 2x4's, East of the small pond. Public Works will continue to mow the field. KLT will mow the upper third of the field at the end of October to allow pollinators to complete their life cycles.

Public Boat Launch

Rosemary attended the online meeting of the Planning Board and made a strong case against State redesign of the area to accommodate larger boats. The Planning Board

voted to deny extension of their approval and will let it expire in July. The ramp still needs repair; work through the Harbor Master to contact the state to complete the job.

Budget Update

- Current budget \$3786. \$2100 has been spent so far this year. Expenses include: pollinator sign for Granite City Park, KLT membership, invasive plant guides for HCC members and Hubbard Free Library, signs and posts for the RES, long poles to reach and remove browntail moth webs.

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- Danielle Parker's trail sign assessment has been completed.
- There is agreement to keep the current posts but to update the signs and to add navigation maps.
- 12 or 15 new signs will be needed; Rosemary will look into high quality signs that can last 10-15 yrs.

HCC Workdays and other summer events

- Volunteers will be needed to cut invasives at the RES, Granite City Park and Berry Field
- HCC is preparing an article for Hallowell Champion
- Vision Hallowell is planning a downtown pocket park. We may be asked to participate.

Meeting adjourned 8:45

Respectfully submitted, Karen Simpson