

Hallowell "RES"-RTCA Working Group Meeting  
2/13/2018 Meeting Notes  
Hallowell City Hall

**Present:**

Working Group: Burnham Martin, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA); Ben Godsoe and Deb Sewall, Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC); Wes Davis, Hallowell Tree Board; Paul Giguere, Manchester Riders Snowmobile Club  
Guests: Cathie Murray and Karen Simpson, HCC

Ben chaired the meeting in place of Rosemary Presnar who could not attend tonight.

**Minutes:**

1. Introductions

The core group and guests introduced themselves and described their interests/activities in the Hallowell City Forest (Res). City Manager Nate Rudy, Recreation Committee Chair Diano Circo, and Property Committee Chair Mike Frett will be kept informed about the group's work via minutes. Members of other stakeholders, partners, and interested parties and the public are welcome at all meetings of the working group. It was noted that the more input we get, the better our ability to come up with a viable plan will be.

2. Review of existing plans

Burnham summarized recommendations of plans that were completed in 1989, 1999, 2007, and 2012. (see page 3 - **Brief summary of recent plans for the Hallowell Recreation Area/City Forest/The Res2/9/18 v2**)

While each had a different emphasis, some themes ran through all of them. People who were polled and spoke at public meetings viewed trail-based recreation as a high priority for the Res.

Working group members identified these issues/key learnings:

- Need for an inventory of existing trails and for signs, blazes, mapping to make it use-friendly
- Need for a management plan
- Need to identify who is going to make decisions about how the property is managed
- Need for a maintenance budget

Burnham noted that the goal of this group is to dovetail the recommendations that have come forward on recreation, conservation and forest management. He also noted the importance of tangible results – for example trail signs, blazing and maps - and coming up with a way to resolve user conflicts.

- 1989 De Wann Plan – proposed ideas including trails in the front part of the property that would link to the ones in the back, and a trail around the stone-lined pond. Other ideas: seasonal use like ice skating and a warming hut, trees at the picnic area, and work on invasive species. The intent here is to create a city park-like feeling.
- 2012 Burnett Forest Management Plan – proposed blazing and signage on trails, and new loop trail for biking. It also identifies 2 zones that are appropriate for timber harvesting that are separate from the recreational trail area and would be done in stages.
  - Neither of the above plans addresses who will be in charge of coordinating use.
- 1999 Giffen Forest Management Plan – focuses on forest management. It notes that management activity can prioritize various goals such as providing recreation value or timber value. These values are not completely compatible, and it’s up to property managers and citizens to agree on priorities.
- 2007 Open Space Plan, by Dominie - notes an interest in well-marked trails and creating connections among existing conserved land parcels. It recommends that the HCC be responsible for off-road trails in the city. Finally, it recommends that the city “identify an entity to manage the Res.”

**3. Snowmobile Trails at Res**

Paul noted that the Snowmobile Club does not anticipate any changes in the near future. They do trail work in the fall, use them in the winter, and then they are done for the year. Others noted how well-maintained, enjoyable, and appreciated the snowmobile trails are for cross country skiers. Paul mentioned that he sees skiers out there and that there has been a surge in the number of fat-tire bikers using the snowmobile trails.

Paul will share the snowmobile map with the working group. He also noted that the club welcomes other users, but that the trails are designed for snowmobiling, and other users should use caution.

**4. Next Steps:**

Please send any maps that you have to Rosemary Presnar, [rlpresnar@hotmail.com](mailto:rlpresnar@hotmail.com).  
Next meeting will be March 6 at 6 PM at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Sewall

## **Brief summary of recent plans for the Hallowell Recreation Area/City Forest/The Res 2/9/18 v2**

Following is a brief summary of four plans created over the past 30 years that focus directly (3) or indirectly (1) on the Hallowell Recreation Area. This tract of land is also known as the City Forest or The Res (after two ponds that were formerly used to supply water to Hallowell). All three of the Res-specific plans call out the importance of a boundary survey and marking.

### The Master Plan for the Res, Terrence J. DeWann & Associates, 1989

*General summary:* This plan focuses on the developed eastern side of the Res and offers many suggestions for improving the recreational and scenic infrastructure. Many of the suggestions would still be worth considering

#### *Trail recommendations:*

- A majority of respondents to a household survey (124 responses) were more interested in the types of recreation that take place on trails than the organized sports
- Trail improvement or new construction throughout the wooded sections of the property
- Specific ideas for new trails at the eastern end of the property, including around the “stone-lined pond”
- Suggestion for a winter trail parking lot inside the current gate near the stone-lined pond, which would be available for parking in winter for access to the trails and ice skating
- Notes need for signs and maps and the potential for interpretation
- Calls for four-five foot wide wood chip surfaced trails and bridges or wooden walkways where needed and provides general specifications
- Makes no mention of snowmobiling or mountain biking, although signs of ATV use are noted

### Forest Management Plan for Hallowell’s City Forest, Land & Water Associates (Giffen), 1999

*General summary:* This plan focuses on forestry, with general recommendations for each of seven stand types estimates of volume and value of timber. It includes a summary of natural resources on the property. Proposes a priority order for forest management activities:

1. Recreation and scenic value
2. Educational value
3. Wildlife habitat value
4. Timber value

He notes that these values are not completely compatible and suggests that the citizens need to agree on the priorities. He also notes that the city needs to decide on long-term management objectives for the property to maximize its benefits.

#### *Trail specific recommendations:*

- Improve and formalize informal trails
- Secure easements for trails that traverse private property adjacent to city-owned land
- Thin vegetation along trails to improve scenic quality (longer views)

City of Hallowell, Maine – Open Space Plan, Dominie, 2007

*General summary:* This broad, sweeping plan looks at open space throughout the city with the view of conserving it for a variety of benefits including habitat, water quality, scenic quality, community identity, nature appreciation, and recreation. The process for developing the plan entailed extensive public input. Calls for an existing or new committee to manage the developed portion of the Res. Suggests implementing a forest management plan at the Res.

*Trail specific recommendations:*

- Notes a general interest in well-marked trails
- Interest in creating new trail connections among existing conserved land parcels
- Recommends creation of a Conservation Commission committee to create and manage off-road trails
- Calls for creation of a city-wide master plan for walking and bicycling facilities including off-road trails

*Res specific recommendation:*

- Identify an entity to manage the Res

Forest Management Plan – Hallowell City Forest, Burnett, 2012

*General summary:* This plan updates the earlier forest management plan with timber inventory and harvest recommendations for five stands. It recommends two areas, or zones, of about 30 and 38 acres in which to focus timber harvest. These zones are located at the far western end of the property and in the south near the gravel pits. The plan suggests an approach to controlling invasive plants on the property.

*Trail specific recommendations:*

- The plan notes that a 2009 survey by the Tree Board and Conservation Commission found that users of the property support recreation use and wildlife and ecological values as highest management priorities
- Blazing and signing needed
- Suggests a new loop trail for bikers

*Overall summary:*

There are four fine plans filled with useful information. Three of the documents reference surveys or public meetings confirming that people view trail-based recreation as a high priority for the Res. All call for well maintained and easy to follow trails.

Two of the plans offer specific recommendations for trails on the property. The DeWann plan includes drawings of potential trails in the developed east end as well as general specifications for trails in the wooded western portion. The Burnett plan suggests adding new segments to create an easy bike loop. It also recommends establishing two zones exclusively for forest management.