

Hallowell "RES" RTCA Working Group Meeting
3/6/2018 Meeting Notes
Hallowell City Hall

Present:

Working Group: Burnham Martin, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA); Rosemary Presnar, Ben Godsoe and Deb Sewall, Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC); Wes Davis, Hallowell Tree Board; Paul Giguere, Manchester Riders Snowmobile Club; Garry Hinckley, Manchester Conservation Commission (MCC) and Central ME Chapter of NEMBA
Guests: Maureen AuCoin, Hallowell City Councilor; Cathie Murray and Karen Simpson, HCC

Rosemary Presnar chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes from February meeting reviewed and approved to post on City website.

2. Review & Updates of Work Plan (Item numbers refer to Workplan tasks; review v3 of Workplan for details, attached for reference)

- Item 1. Create a core work group. -complete
- Item 2a: Review of existing plan summary. –complete
- Item 2b: Review of existing plans summary. -discussion & additions

Four key common threads were validated from the Jan and Feb review of existing/past plans concerning the RES:

- *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*

In addition, these items added for longer-term considerations:

- *Need for a decision about whether to actively manage forest resources*
- *Trail Connectivity to surrounding communities*

- Item 2c. Updated boundary survey
 - Being proposed for FY2019 City budget (Jul'18-Jun'19)
 - Some trails pass through private property. The boundary survey that is due to take place will identify those areas more specifically. Land owners may not want their land to be identified as open in this way, even though they are willing to allow public access. Land owner permission will be sought, confirmed, and appropriately acknowledged when maps are created.
- Item 2d. Citizen/public input. – Ben and Garry to work on this; Ideas brainstormed:
 - Hold public 'guided' walks in the spring to get public input on site, perhaps a day of activities at the Res where people are using it in various ways. Walk of snowmobile and mountain bike trails and how the clubs design, build, and manage them; wildflowers, history of quarries, reservoirs, etc. Such an event would bring together different user groups, like mountain bikers, bird watchers, hikers... Garry and Ben are going to follow up.
 - Survey of stakeholders (Hallowell and non-Hallowell users) to inform working group efforts; try to capture recommendations, concerns, ideas, etc. Ben will work with Burnham on this.
- Item 3. Inventory existing trails

- Group reviewed trail map done by Mountain Bike Association; trail map is sold at local bike shops and available from CeMeNEMBA. Working Group to gather existing maps with goal of reviewing and creating an up-to-date one. Rosemary, Burnham and Maureen to follow up on this.
- Burnham may have an intern to assist with tasks in the summer

3. Meeting summary and Next steps

- Continue to divide-up tasks and form work teams.
- Major task will be to learn about management structures and recommend a management entity for the property, assigning responsibility for creating and maintaining trails, coordinating uses, resolving conflicts between users. Both education and trail design can help mitigate conflicts. Management Framework discussion will be on April agenda since we are still indoors. (WP items 6c and 7)

4. Next meeting will be at 5:30pm on Tuesday, April 3.

WorkPlan v3

The RES Planning Project(RTCA) Workplan	Outcome / Deliverable/ Who	Timeline
1. Create a core working group <u>(that can work towards solutions / will have homework!</u>	Rosemary Presnar– reachout to participants, keep RTCA/RES project work under the HCC and tied into existing monthly meetings.	Jan 2018-complete
a. Include representatives of appropriate city boards/committees	Deb Sewall – Conservation Ben Godsue– Conservation & Brownfields Wes – Tree Board	Jan 2018-complete
b. Include representatives of interested trail users	Paul Giguere – Manchester Snowmobile Club Garry Hinkley – Central Maine NE Mountain Bike Assoc / Manchester CC	Jan 2018-complete
c. City of Hallowell – keep informed/copied on minutes and activities	Diano Circo – Recreation Committee Nate Rudy – City Manager City Public Works, HCC, Tree Board, Planning Board	
d. Discuss purpose/scope of working group & project	<i>Group will focus on RES uses, existing trail network, management framework; final report will recommend longer term priorities validated from past reports.</i>	Feb 13, 2018
e. Discuss and adjust workplan/tasklist		Ongoing
2. Vision and goals for management of the property		
a. Summary of existing plans	4 past plans – Burnham to review and summarize	Jan2018- complete
b. Review of existing plans summary	common threads, follow-ups, conclusions <i>Inputs/common threads from 2/13 Plan Summary review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Need for an inventory of existing trails and for signs, blazes, mapping to make it use-friendly**</i> • <i>Need for a management plan</i> • <i>Need to identify who is going to make decisions about how the property is managed</i> 	Feb & Mar 2018 meetings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a maintenance budget <p>**Some initial, low cost recommendations may be considered with existing HCC budget and/or solicited donations.</p> <p>Longer Term needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a decision about whether to actively manage forest resources • Trail Connectivity to other communities 	
c. Current, updated boundary survey	Diano Circo adding to 2019 City Budget 3/28 – City Manager confirmed RFP will be written	
d. Citizen/Public input – (see how RES is used by public, try to get overall picture of RES use, including trails) - Consider residents and non-residents	<p>?others – maybe bring in for interviews: family w/young children, dog walkers, Maine Naturalists, bird club, Augusta Trails, Cohen Center, Planning Board</p> <p>See March minutes for additional ideas/notes for Field Days to tie in guided walks for interested groups – snowmobile and bike trail overviews, land owner consent, hikers, birders, dog walkers, history, etc.</p> <p>See Item 8 – and surveys (vol 2 of Open Space plan has survey questions and results from 2007) See Item 4 – if survey, capture why folks do not use RES also concerns/issues</p>	Mar meeting – Ben and Garry to take on.
e. Specific recommendations for the trails	See item 6	
3. Inventory existing resources	Existing maps (WWW, MBA (have copy), Maine Trail Finder?) City map Manchester Snowmobile Club –have copy)	March meeting - Rosemary, Maureen, Burnham to take on. May have NPS intern in summer to assist
a. Trails (location, characteristics, condition)	do trails cross private land, where, who.	
b. Important natural and cultural features (acres to avoid, acres to use)		
c. educational & historic aspects		

4. Identify issues related to trail use	part of survey in 2d?	
5. Review good practices for trail design/management (for problem solving, see management/structure bullets below) /maintenance		
6. Discuss and agree on recommendations for:		
a. Vision and goals for the trail system		
b. Improvements and maintenance for the current system		
c. Management group/structure for dealing with issues such as user conflicts, group use, or holding events	start discussion in April	
d. How to Address new trails or uses		
7. Develop outline of management framework	start discussion in April	
a. Written document with recommended guidelines/approaches	Include inputs from 6.	
b. Recommend management team	see 6c.	
(include Communications, Volunteers – liabilities, insurance, etc.)		
8. Seek public input as needed	see 2d.	
Suggestion: Public walking meeting in the spring		
9. Write draft plan		
10. Revise, submit final plan		
(Include any short-term and long-term financial needs in management plan;		
Future planning/process for other enhanced recreations uses;		
Options for conservation/preservation of the property)		
Options for grant opportunities		

11. Engage in appropriate municipal process for review by interested boards and committees		
12. Continue management team meetings and actions		