

Hallowell Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Hallowell City Hall

December 1, 2015

Present: Rosemary Presnar, Jon Lund, Cathie Murray, Sarah Shed

Guests: Juliet Shagoury, Peter Spiegel, Karen Simpson, and Stefan Pakulski, City Manager

Minutes from November were accepted and introductions of Commission members and guests were made.

1. For the benefit of the new City Manager and prospective new members of the Commission, HCC members provided background on the history of the HCC including its responsibilities and achievements. Questions and discussion about roles and responsibilities of Commission members followed. Ideas for increasing the visibility and relevance of the Commission were discussed, including an increased presence in social media and increased involvement with Hall-Dale students and other community members.

The Chair asked that those interested in becoming members of the Hallowell Conservation Commission let her know by December 10.

2. In light of Diano Circo's departure from the HCC to the City Council, the Commission the HCC needs to appoint another representative to the Recreation Committee.

3. Cathie Murray reported on a Senior College class that she and 3 other Master Naturalists will be offering from March - May 2015. The class will be held indoors at UMA. However, Cathie will invite the other teachers to join her in offering a few complementary outdoor walks at the Res or other public spaces on topics such as ferns, winter twigs, tracks, migratory birds, etc. These walks would be open to the public as well as the Senior College students. She is communicating with community members with varied expertise on other outdoor efforts that could take place (e.g., full moon walks, snowshoeing, etc.). HCC members are encouraged to think of skills and interests they would like to share at the Res, the riverfront or other public spaces, as part of an ongoing effort to increase public engagement with Hallowell's open spaces.

4. In appreciation for Diano's service to the HCC and his transition to the City Council, members present agreed to contribute to tickets for the Maine Botanical Gardens and a dining card for Diano.

5. It was noted that the Hallowell Quarry property is for sale and might be foreclosed by the City for back taxes. All members expressed the importance of that property and how desirable would be as City property, open to the public. It was agreed to watch what happens and support its acquisition by the City if the opportunity presents its self.

Respectfully submitted
Sarah Shed