

Hallowell Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Hallowell City Hall

January 5, 2016

Present: Jon Lund, Cathie Murray, Deb Sewall, Sarah Shed, Karen Simpson, Peter Spiegel

Chair: Rosemary Presnar

Next meeting: February 2, 7pm, City Hall

1. Welcome new members Karen Simpson and Peter Spiegel.

2. December minutes approved as corrected. (Shed, Sewall)

3. Updates

A. HCC has sent letter of support for Tree Board's **Project Canopy grant**.

B. Hallowell 2016 Inauguration

-Rosemary attended and has been appointed to the Planning Board. This will facilitate communication between Conservation Commission and Planning Board.

-Mayor Walker outlined priorities for 2016, including disposition of Stevens School property and an inventory of City properties. Inventory was assigned to Property Committee with assistance from Conservation Commission.

C. The Conservation Commission still has two open seats.

D. Peter will inquire about whether **quarry property** that abuts Town Forest is on the market.

E. Maine DEP-EPA Working Group on Regional Emergency Response Plans

Sarah attended an organizational meeting on coordinated responses in the event of oil spills or other events affecting the Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers. She will contact City Manager Pakulski to let him know about this effort.

F. Rail Trail Kiosk

Sign with information on invasive species has been printed. Sarah and Deb will install early in January.

4. HCC Goals for 2016

Rosemary proposed the following priorities for the Conservation Commission this year.

Commissioners identified those they would most like to work on:

- Stevens School - #2 on Mayor's 2016 top ten list
- Inventory of City Property - #10 on Mayor's top ten list
- Public Engagement with Hallowell's Conservation Properties

- Invasive Species Control
- Communication with City (coordinating with committees, boards, City Council, Mayor, City Manager)
- Grant Applications

Deb, Sarah, and Peter will focus on invasive education and work days. One new idea is to have a day or days where private property owners pull invasive plants, especially knotweed, and we would ask the Public Works Department to haul them away.

Sarah will continue with the mapping-invasives project we started on last year. She will also draft occasional memos for the City Council about Conservation Commission activities and priorities,

Jon and Deb will be liaisons to Kennebec Land Trust. Jon will focus on Stevens School and help with a trail day at Jamies Pond Wildlife Management Area.

Peter and Karen will spend some time getting to know more about conservation efforts in town. Peter will work on HCC's social media presence, help recruit volunteers, and will be liaison to the Tree Board.

Cathie will check on the invasive stands that were cut back during Days of Caring. She and Peter will work on updating maps of the Town Forest. She will also be the HCC representative on the Recreation Committee, help with the property inventory, organize activities at the Town Forest, and talk to the Cultural Committee about an Earth Day program.

Karen will be HCC liaison to the Vaughan Homestead and lead naturalist walks, especially for children and families.

Rosemary will continue to focus on Stevens School, coordinate with the Planning Board, be Conservation Commission spokesperson with City officials and committees, and work on property inventory.

5. Walks at City Forest

Cathie is working with Master Naturalists to organize walks and public activities at the Town Forest. Please contact her if anyone has ideas for an outdoor program they would like to lead.

6. Meeting adjourned at 8 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Sewall
Secretary

