Hollis Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2023

Present: Catherine Hewitt; Joanne Toone; John Mattor, Ruth Leavitt; Doris Luther; Madison Moody; Mary Hoffman; Sarah Coppi

1. Catherine spoke with Southern Maine Regional Planning (SMRP) today, They will come up with an electronic GIS map system with overlays that we can use for identifying open space. They will let us know the cost. They suggested coming up with top ten scenic interests in Hollis. This will avoid specifically naming people’s property and possibly offending them. Mary will check with Dave McCubrey about what maps the town has.
2. Route 202 Bridge update: Repairs are scheduled for 2024. They will be putting up a traffic light at 202 and 35.
3. Dam removal update: no further news
4. Brookfield is required by Inland Fish &Wildlife to put in a boat launch, they are looking for a location. Mary will check on the status of this.
5. Tea House update: The Packards have requested money from Poland Springs and the Narragansett Foundation to move the building, no news yet. Discussion ensued about putting in a deadline for this deal. The building is deteriorating and will need to be moved or destroyed. Money from IC could be used. Discussion about possibly getting some volunteer help, and discussion re: getting money from the state because it is a historical building. We agreed that we will give the Packards a deadline of October 1, 2023. We can look into possibilities for excavation. Mary will check with Dana Packard and let him know the deadline. Madison will check on excavation possibilities and costs.
6. Catherine asked about new state regulations for water extraction by Poland Springs. She’ll check into it.
7. Cluster Housing discussion at Select Board meeting involved how to educate the public. Catherine talked with SMRP about impact fees for cluster housing and developments. She was told to check with North Berwick to find out how they do it. The HCC supports the Planning Board’s position, which is in favor of a cluster housing ordinance. Joanne will post our position on Facebook with a link to our website.
8. Joanne and Ruth are planning 2 more nature walks – one in Googins Woods and one at Indian Cellar at the end of June and July.
9. We are expecting more red maple seedlings that were not given out at Earth Day. We’ll have to find a place to plant them.
10. John brought up the attention being given to PFAS. The state was beginning to craft laws preventing the use of PFAS, but has put them on hold for now.
11. Community Day, August 5: What do we need to do for this? Mary will let us know. The Maine Master Naturalist course has “Safari Boxes.” This would be a great activity for kids at Community Day.
12. Catherine’s class raised and released brook trout in the Nonesuch River. Anyone can order them from the state to stock their ponds. Shy Beaver Hatchery has them.
13. Other: Discussion regarding the town logging town property. Jeff Williams is the consulting forester. Should HCC have some input on which properties the town is logging?

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Luther