

Hollis Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2022

RECEIVED
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BY: 

Present: John Mattor, Lee Klarman, Mary Hoffman; Madison Moody, Joanne Toone; Catherine Hewitt. Doris Luther

1. Maine Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting on October 22, 2022. Joanne and John will be attending. Our dues have been paid. Topics for us to share would be the acquisition of the Tea House property and the request to remove the Brookfield Dam.
2. Indian Cellar (IC): Discussion re: the erosion between the IC kiosk and abutments and the poison ivy and whether or not to put up a warning sign. It was decided to put up a poison ivy sign, so that, hopefully, people won't pull their boats up which causes erosion.
Poison ivy around the bike rack needs to be dealt with. Either spray it or cover it. It was decided to spray with 30% vinegar in the spring.
- John pointed out that IC got a lot of traffic during COVID. This shows the importance of having open spaces.
- Madison has a box of brochures for IC, and John has brochures for Googins Woods. Catherine brought up a question regarding the appropriateness of the picture of an "Indian" on the IC brochure. Should we remove the picture and/or change the name of IC to reflect the native Abenaki who inhabited the area. Catherine will get advice from people she knows.
- The Packards have applied for a grant through the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation to get money to move the Tea House. They are waiting to hear.
3. Brookfield Dam Removal: Lee reported that the Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC) has not taken an official position on this because no permit has been applied for or issued yet. Concerns re: partial removal and leaving part of it and possible environmental impacts and future problems that may ensue as a result of removal of the dam and hazardous waste from the old Rogers' Mill. Hollis selectmen have requested a tour of the buildings, but Brookfield denied access.
- Catherine suggested that if they leave, and the land reverts to the town, perhaps we could make a green space out of it.
- Madison asked if HCC should take a position on the dam removal. There seem to be too many unanswered questions for us to make a statement about it. Perhaps after the Hollis/Buxton meeting next week, on weds. October 26 at 7pm. Joanne suggested that, if questioned, we could say we are concerned about environmental impacts and making sure the removal is done responsibly. The SRCC is meeting on October 26, 2022 at Dayton Town Hall.

4.Cluster Housing: LD 2003 has passed. Madison asked how this might impact cluster housing. He will look into the wording of the Cluster Housing ordinance. One requirement is that the landowner's septic system be sufficient to accommodate extra housing. Planning board will be taking a look into this.

5. Other: Discussion re: Cannabis shops. They now can deliver.

-John reported that rare orchids have been found on Town property.

-Joanne graduates next month as a Master Maine Naturalist. (Congratulations!) She is designing a brochure for Googins Woods and Indian Cellar and will put a QR code on each.

Respectfully submitted

Doris Luther