

Hollis Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2020

Present: John Mattor, Chris Jones, Catherine Hewett, Doris Luther and guest Paul Mattor from the Hollis Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)

1. Hollis Comprehensive plan presentation by Paul Mattor:

Paul came to talk to us about the on-going revision of the Comprehensive Plan. He brought us copies of chapters 2 & 3 as those being relevant to the Conservation Commission (HCC.) We went through the strategies listed and talked about their relevance to HCC. We decided that HCC members would have until our next meeting to review the strategies for discussion at that meeting. Members of HCC and members of the public can find the old plan, that LRPC is working from, on the town website. (search "comprehensive") For HCC members, you can get a copy from John M. We will be discussing at our March meeting, and Paul will attend our April meeting to gather our input. Catherine suggested putting the strategies on a Google Document, so that our members could add in comments. Chris will set that up.

The LRPC is meeting with every town committee/board/ department so everyone has a chance to have input. Catherine asked if the Comprehensive plan has any "teeth" or legal standing. Paul's reply was that, " by state law, you can't have a binding zoning ordinance without a Comprehensive Plan." So it does, indeed, have teeth. The LRPC is hoping to finish the plan and get it on the ballot in June or November 2021.

2. Major Renovation of Indian Cellar and Googins Woods this bicentennial:

John thinks this should be a priority. Beef it up and make new. The kiosk needs sprucing up as well as new brochures/maps. Catherine will spearhead the kiosk. She will have a plan for the kiosk by our next meeting. Chris and John agree that some chainsaw work needs to be done. Plans for that will be made as soon as the snow melts, but before the black flies come out. (the latter being Catherine's request) We may also have to replace some signs.

Chris suggested we have another trash pick-up day. We'll choose a date at the next meeting – again –after the snow melts and before the black flies.

3. HCC Leadership for 2020:

John will make a list of everything he does, as chair, (like the budget, annual report, ME Conservation Commissions dues, etc. Catherine has offered to be his understudy.

4. John has been appointed to the HCC for another 3 years. (Yay)

5. HCC educational outreach ideas needed:

John will contact the Pathfinders.

Catherine will talk with Hollis Elementary.

John suggested working with the Hollis Rec. department about a tree identification Walk. Catherine suggested a treasure hunt and also creating an “adopt a tree” program for kids. John also suggested Geo-caching. Chris told us about the fairy “villages” on Mackworth Island and suggested we could do something like that here.

6. Items for March agenda:

- Discussion of Strategies in Comprehensive Plan
- Set dates for Indian Cellar and for Trash-pick up
- Catherine to present her thoughts on the kiosk at Indian Cellar

7. Other:

-John showed us an ad for “Discover The Forest.” You can go to [DiscoverTheForest.org](http://DiscoverTheForest.org) to find places to go hiking. It was suggested that we Put Indian Cellar and Googins Woods on there.

-Chris said he’ll talk with Bennett at the town office about linking the town website with the HCC website.

-John reported that the state is re-writing enabling laws for CC’s.

- Catherine suggested that our signage at Indian Cellar contain the historical background, for example, the stairs were put in during the 1930’s by the Civilian Conservation Corps under FDR.

-Catherine brought up that we are hoping to use the town's GIS platform to create an open space plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Luther