

**Report to the town board from Durham Connect (formerly, CoPIC)**

*by Joan Breslin (Chair) and Bernard Rivers (Deputy Chair)*

*16 January 2021*

Here are the activities over the past month of *Durham Connect* (the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee) and its working groups.

At our meeting on 14 January 2021, we agreed that starting with this report we will send reports to the town board every two months, not every month.

We agreed to start working on a strategy document regarding the objective of and features to be included in the town website. Once a draft is ready, we will submit it to the town board and key town employees for comments/approval.

We mailed printed copies of the first issue of the town's *Durham Courier* newsletter to 1,800 residents in November 2020. It was very well received. We are working on identifying more residents who can be sent the newsletter by email, thereby saving on printing and mailing costs.

We will produce two issues of the newsletter during 2021, in May and November. The two issues together will cost \$3,000 or so for printing and mailing. The town has set aside \$2,000 towards this in its 2021 budget. Thus, we (Durham Connect) have to raise \$1,000 or so from other sources to ensure that both 2021 issues can be sent out.

To help facilitate this, we will establish Durham Connect as a nonprofit organization and will get a bank account. (Tal has kindly offered to assist with this as necessary on a pro bono basis.) At this point we will not seek tax-exempt status, because that is more complex. We will then seek to raise funds from generous town residents for the newsletter project. Later, we may seek to raise funds in various ways for other projects

The historic preservation working group met in December to continue its work. The other four working groups did not meet during the past month, because of Christmas, Covid, etc.

The next Durham Connect meeting will be on March 11.

Further details on Durham Connect and its working groups, and a copy of this report, are provided at [www.durhamtogether.com/comprehensive-plan](http://www.durhamtogether.com/comprehensive-plan).