



ENVISION CONCORD BRIDGE TO 2030

Envision Concord Public Event – Part 1

October 21, 2017

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Concord-Carlisle High School Cafeteria

CivicMoxie™
experts in place

Good Morning!



Part 1

Welcome & Introduction

Gary Kleiman & Elise Woodward,
Envision Concord Committee Co-Chairs
(Comprehensive Long Range Plan)

What have we accomplished since the 2005 Comprehensive Long Range Plan?

Marcia Rasmussen, Town of Concord
Director of Planning & Land Management

Planning Approach & Today's Schedule

Susan Silberberg, CivicMoxie, Principal

Envision Concord Committee



Part 1

John Boynton, Member-at-Large (Clerk)

Margaret Briggs, Concord Municipal Light Plant

James Bryant, Member-at-Large

Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board ex-officio

Peter Hunter, Recreation Commission

Wally Johnston, School Committee

Gary Kleiman, Planning Board (Co-Chair)

Barron Lambert, Member-at-Large

Barbara Morse, Concord Housing Development Corporation

Sharyn Lenhart, Council on Aging

Nick Pappas, Public Works Commission

Wade Rubenstein, Member-at-Large

Elise Woodward, Historical Commission (Co-Chair)

Judith Zaunbrecher, Natural Resources Commission

Data Gathering

We have gathered a lot of information!

From many different sources...

- Public input at open meetings
- Letters and correspondence
- Website posts, text responses from town signs
- Town Survey
- Envision Concord Survey (will share tonight)
- Town Committees and Boards feedback +memos
- Town professional staff
- Focus groups with teens; social services; arts, historical, cultural; business owners/interests
- Interviews
- More to come!

Planning Approach

American Planning Association

Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans

- Six Principles
- Two Processes
- Two Attributes



Six Principles means...

1. No laundry lists

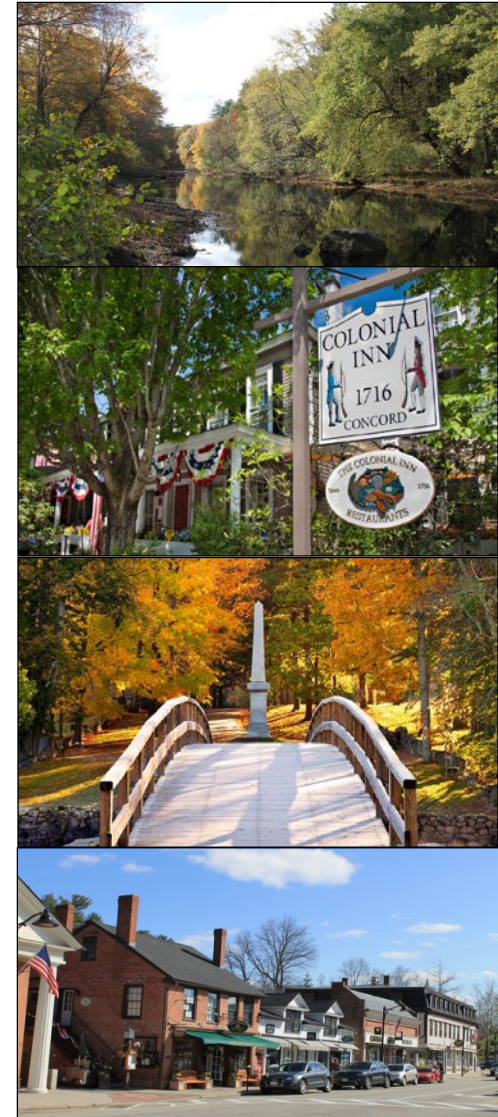
Our job today and over the next several months is not to make a “wish list” of projects or actions that are devoid of context

2. Identify optimal solutions

For any “critical issue” that is identified, we must look at it from the perspective of each principle: how does it affect livability, sustainability, economic resilience, health and equity of Concord and surrounding towns?

3. Systems thinking

No “siloes” thinking. We will be seeking integrated action items to meet multiple Town needs.



Committed to a process of Authentic Participation...



Ensure that the planning process actively involves all segments of the community in analyzing issues, generating visions, developing plans, and monitoring outcomes.



Committed to a process of Authentic Participation...

Not replacing existing processes of participatory democracy in Concord (Town Meeting, public hearings), but supplementing these to draw broader participation and input.



Silos vs. Systems

Example:

Pocket Playgrounds

Idea: a small playground within a five minute walk of every neighborhood in Concord

- GIS study to identify neighborhoods w/o
- Procure 6-10 ¼ acre parcels in all underserved parts of town
- Finance from taxes or Parks and Rec budget redevelopment of each at cost of ~\$1 million each



Silos vs. Systems

Example:

Improved livability, sustainability, economic resilience, health and equity

Idea: multi-use town parcel acquisition

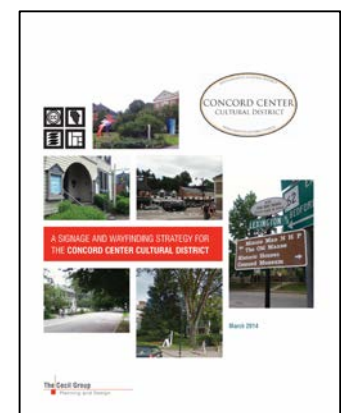
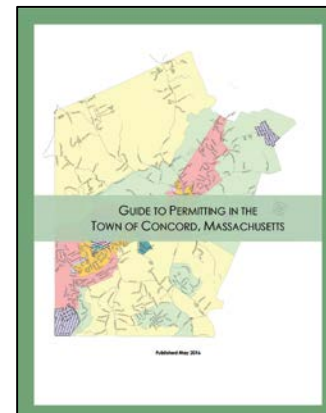
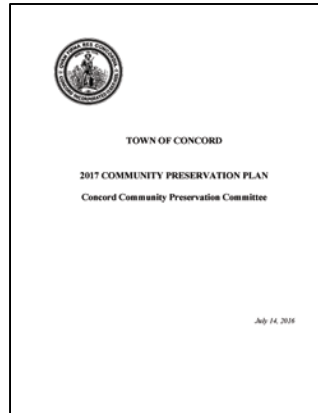
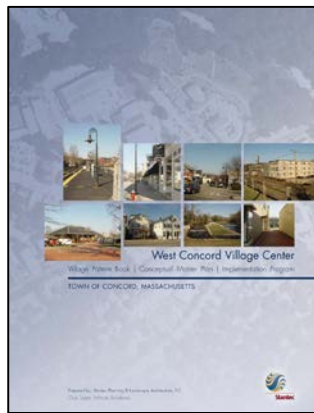
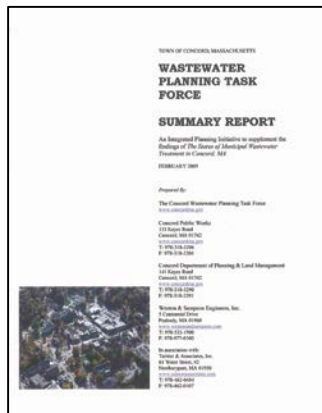
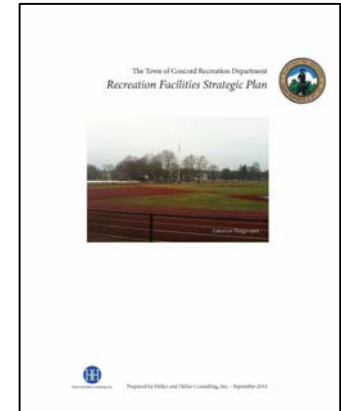
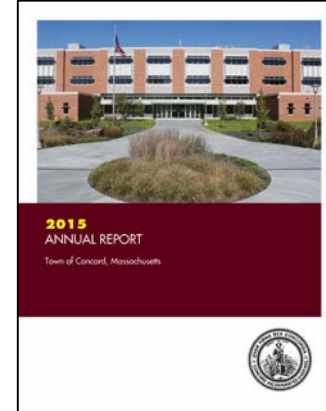
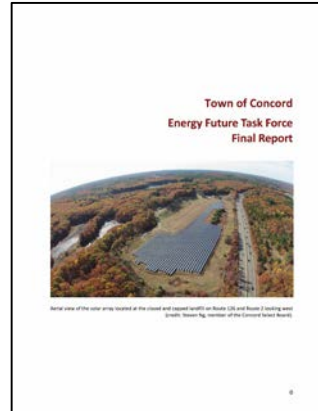
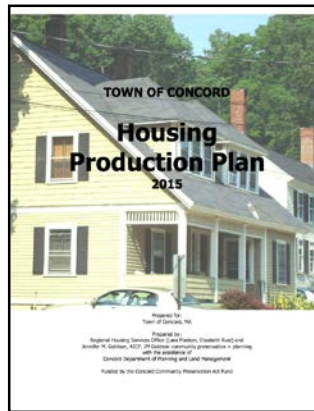
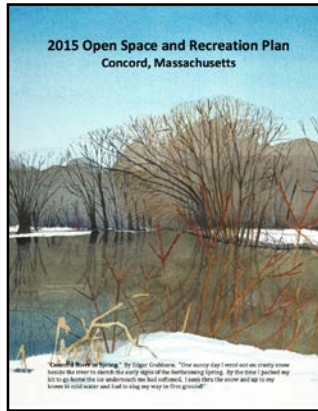
- Playground
- Mini-grid distributed storage and control
- Historic landmark and cultural kiosks
- Affordable tiny house
- Public transit hubs/autonomous EV charging stations



What have we accomplished since the 2005 CLRP?



Part 1



FOUNDATION FOR ENVISION CONCORD – BRIDGE to 2030

CivicMoxieTM
experts in place

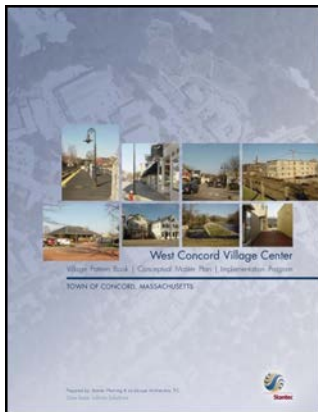
Three Themes of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan:

1. Protect Concord's Assets and Character
2. Enhance Quality of Life
3. Balance Town Needs with the Ability to Pay

Protect Concord's Assets and Character *Part 1*

- Protect Open Space and Preserve Natural Resources
- Enhance Cluster Zoning Provisions/Minimize Sprawl
- Preserve Agricultural Uses
- Protect Village Centers
- Ensure Economic Viability of Businesses
- Protect or Plan the Prison Farm Land
- Protect Historic and Cultural Resources (including vistas)
- Maintain Town's Capital Assets and Infrastructure

Protect Concord's Assets and Character *Part 1*

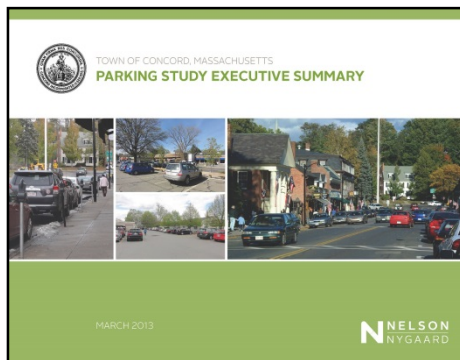


Enhance Quality of Life

- Offer a variety of housing options and more affordable housing opportunities
- Address tear-down of smaller homes
- Expand Local Historic District
- Develop Town-owned open space for mixed housing
- Provide adequate parking facilities/Comprehensive Town Parking program
- Implement traffic-calming measures
- Address transportation issues
- Provide full range of quality services for residents
- Welcome visitors

Enhance Quality of Life

Part 1



Balance Town Needs with Ability to Pay *Part 1*

- Pursue policies to balance tax burden so residents can stay in town
- Adopt Community Preservation Act
- Utilize Public-Private Partnerships
- Maintain/modestly expand Town's commercial tax base
- Invest in longer-range capital investments
- Update fee and fine schedules regularly
- Prioritize projects with a focus on 'core projects' (i.e., school buildings, public safety buildings, well-sites)

Balance Town Needs with Ability to Pay *Part 1*



Preparing for the future of Concord



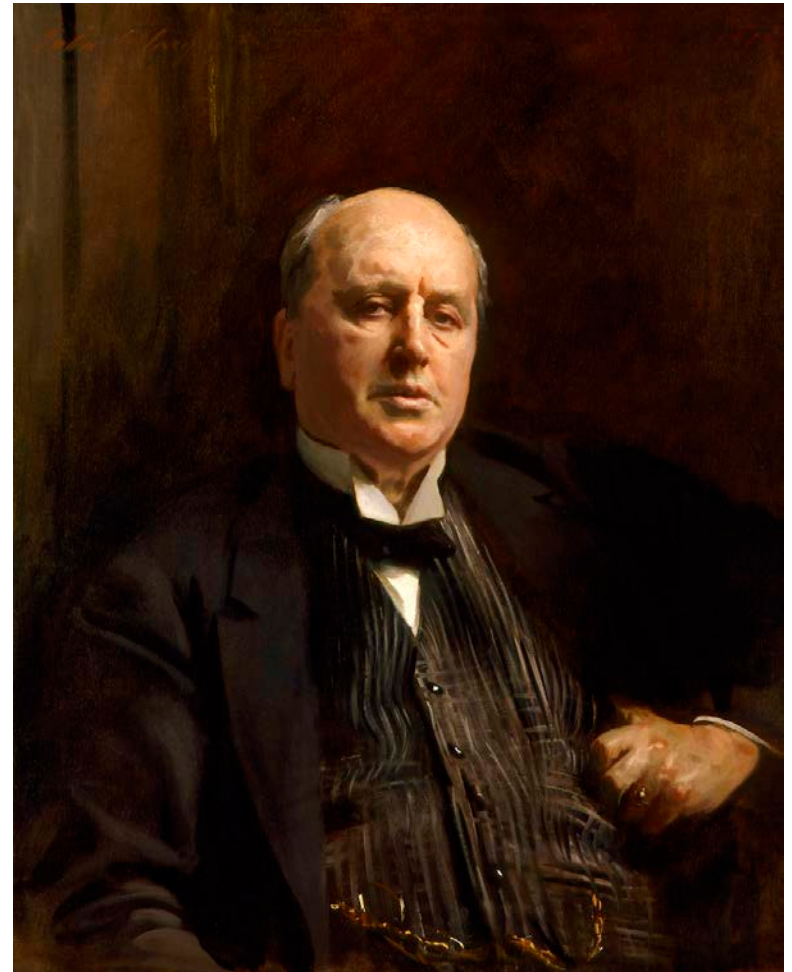
Part 1



- Gather input from diverse voices and as broad a segment of the population as possible.
- Change will occur whether we want it to or not.
- Planning to be proactive rather than reactive.
- High standards and many high priorities—planning in the context of the Town's fiscal health, trends, and expectations.
- Must explore competing priorities.
- Regarding change: approaches attempt to maintain level of services expected and quality of life (prioritize).

History Can Inform the Future

- Henry James spoke of Concord as "the biggest little place in America."
- What can being "big" mean for the town today?
- Use this CLRP planning process to explore differences of opinion and values and meet the future head-on.



Approach

MA General Law Section 81D

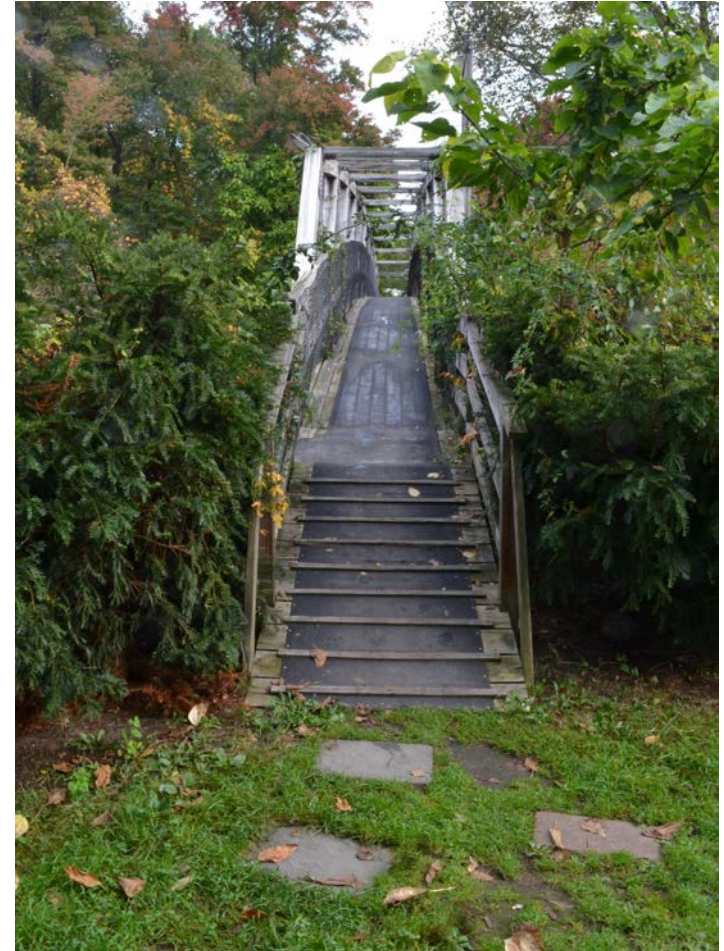
1. Cultural + Historic Resources
2. Economic Vitality
3. Housing
4. Land Use
5. Mobility/ Transportation
6. Open Space + Natural Resources
7. Public Facilities + Infrastructure
(Schools; Social Services)
8. Sustainability



Approach

APA Comprehensive Plan Guidelines

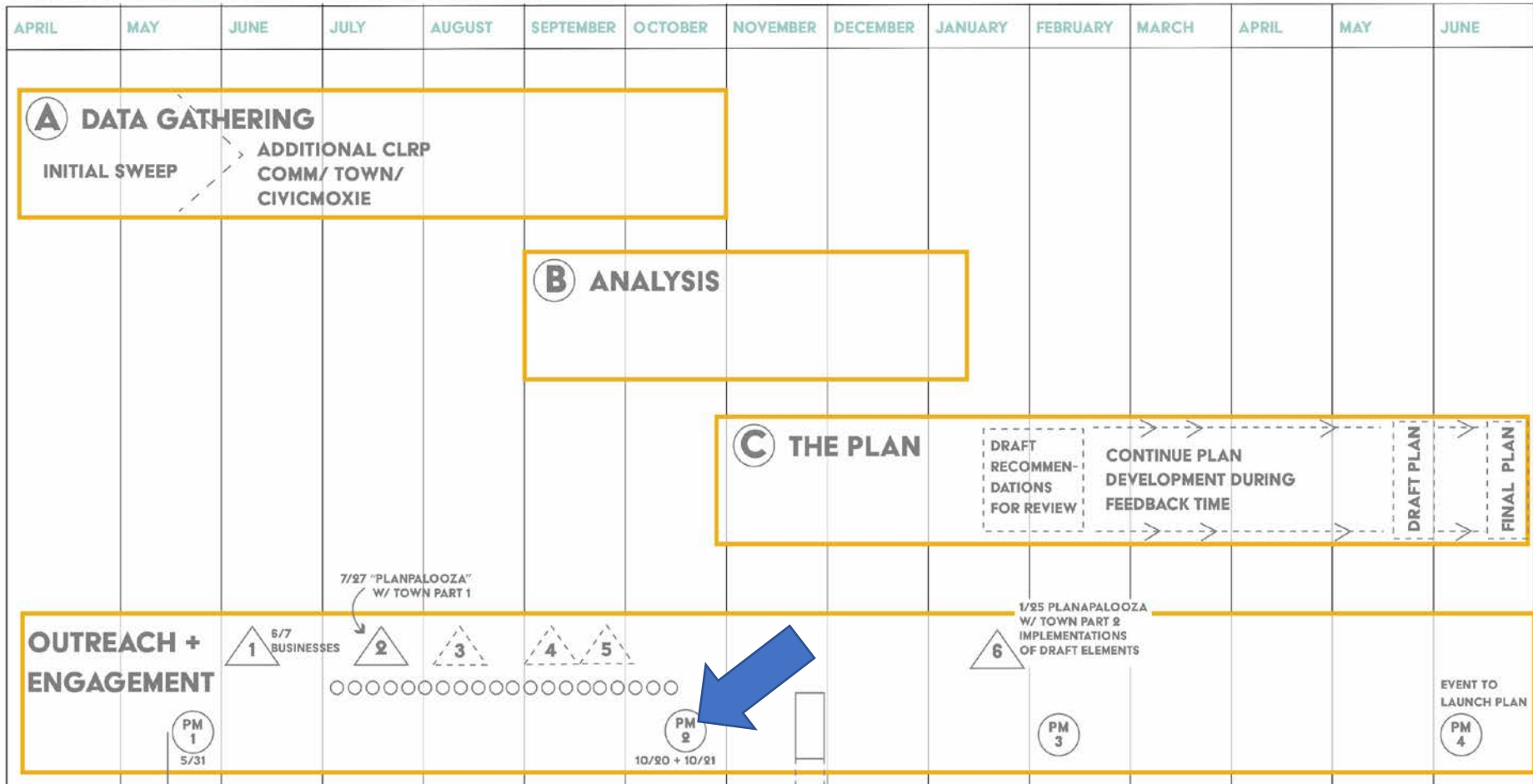
1. Livable Built Environment
2. Harmony with Nature
3. Resilient Economy
4. Interwoven Equity
5. Healthy Community
6. Responsible Regionalism



Planning Process Schedule

Part 1

ENVISION CONCORD CIVICMOXIE TIMELINE



Today's Schedule



Part 1

- Welcome & Presentation – Part 1 (Introduction)
- Presentation – Part 2 (What we're seeing and hearing)
- Questions & Discussion
- Neighbor Discussions #1 (real-time feedback)
- Presentation – Part 3 (Summaries of Town-wide surveys and voting responses; Priority areas identified to-date)
- Neighbor Discussions #2 or Open Comments (you decide)
- Wrap up + Next Steps