

## JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION...AUGUST 20, 2015....6:30 at the LIBRARY

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Louise von Weise, Noel Dodge, Eric Nuse, Laura Branca

Absent: Ann Marie Bahr

Guest: Dean Locke

The July minutes were approved.

### JOURNEY'S END WORK UPDATE

Trail work:

Last month's to-do list was sent to Lydia Menendez, who said she would handle finding out what the VYCC will do to remediate problems with the trail. Added to the list was smoothing off of the handrail. Re: backfilling the steps to the falls, we might ask the town to deliver a load of rock to use. Hauling rock by hand from the drop point, however, would not be a whole lot of fun.

Louise and Eric report that the trail looks good. Both picked up trash while there, though "not too much".

Signage:

Noel cut swell rounds from leftover cedar that will work beautifully for signs. Laura experimented with her woodburning tool and got good results, so will take home the wood Noel cut to work on signage. We'll need a 'Journey's End' sign at the top of the trail and a few arrows for vague turns in the trail.

Kiosks:

Eric will talk to Cal Stanton regarding the Laraway schedule. If they can't do the kiosks, we can have a work day and get one done for JE.

### TUESDAY NITE LIVE

The displays have been successful, with plenty of interest. The last one will include a signup sheet for the Christmas Bird Count; Eric will loan a mounted duck for thematic ambience. There will also be a poster advertising our birthday celebration.

### LANDS

Unfortunately, LANDS is (temporarily, we hope) on hiatus, so there will be no projects this fall.

Gabo, who worked on our proposal for Journey's End last summer, sent Emily Brodsky a youtube video he did as a followup to the JE work. Lois will send the link so we can all see it.

So when's the last time somebody did extra work just because they're interested? How cool is that?

### TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Dept. of Urban and Community Forestry will provide a day of tree training in Johnson for ten public employees/volunteers this fall as one part of the three-pronged program that

Sue is involved in. Mark Duntemann will conduct a morning of classroom training, followed by lunch and hands-on field work for the afternoon. Louise, Sue and Noel are interested in going and it's hoped that some road crew members will go, too. A tree management plan that is being written (slowly) by Sue and last fall's Village tree inventory make up the rest of the program.

#### OUR BIRTHDAY BASH!

It'll be a potluck picnic at Gomo on Sunday, October 11, from 11-2:00, in the field we had brush hogged last year. It had better not rain, since that was the only weekend that somebody wasn't busy. We'll have a campfire and supply apple desserts made from Gomo apples. For entertainment we can give guided hikes and encourage exploration, do a nature based scavenger hunt, Noel can teach INaturalist, and we can just plain enjoy the view. We'll get some trail maps printed.

Everybody will be invited, with personal invitations going out to former members. We need to start talking it up soon. Closer to the time we can post it on FPF.

Louise will approach Sterling Market and Butternut Mtn. Farms about donating some cheese and Lois will contact Cabot.

Eric mentioned a keg, which might not happen, but it'll be a kegger at heart. Not so sure we should mention that in the advertising.

#### A NEW MEMBER?

Dean Locke joined us for the evening and didn't run screaming into the night by the time we adjourned, so he might be considering joining the CC!

#### MISC

- We may need a bigger venue for the 2016 March Gladness series. We can look into the Lowe Lecture Hall.
- Eric has a handbook of trail standards that we can rely on in Journey's End work, etc.
- The snacks were extra good this month! Way to go with the banana-chocolate cookies, Laura!
- Please note: we're back to our Tuesday schedule.

Adjourned at 8:45

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 15 at the Library at 6:30.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary