JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION~AUGUST 21, 2014~6:30 PM at the LIBRARY

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering. Eric Nuse, Jeanne Engel, Noel Dodge, Carley Coolidge, Louise von Weise, Ann Marie Bahr
Absent: Cynthia Perry
Guests: Michael Mahnke, Eric's granddaughter, Olive Mahnke

LOUISE GETS ROPED IN!

Welcome, Louise, our newest member! You visit once and you just can't ever leave! After a long time, we now have a full house.

GOMO TRAILS, REVISITED

Eric reports that the Gomo is looking good, with very little evidence of new damage on the trails (or off), an improvement over last year. We'll be up there on September 6 to do apple tree release and brush cutting, armor some of the side trails that are off limits to ATVs, and put brush in eroded areas. Sue and Eric will bring chainsaws; others will bring loppers, pruning saws, etc.; everybody will bring lunch. Meet at Lois' to carpool at 9:00.

Good apples are coming along. It is devoutly hoped that we will see another Eric creation, aka, an apple pie.

JOUNEY'S END UPDATE

The celebration will take place on Sunday, September 7, at 1:00. Walking tours will begin at 12:15 and 1:45 on Plot Rd., with parking available at the Padula and Mahnke properties. Sue will make a couple of small signs directing parking. The River Conservancy will provide light refreshments. We will meet at Lois', to arrive at the End at 12:15.

We should reach out to people to relate their stories about Journey's End.

Meanwhile, on August 23rd, some JSC students plan to meet with Lois and Sue from 3-5:00 to do trail work and move the picnic table down to the falls. Eric dropped the table onto the trail at the Padula sandpit, so it would be easier to move. (Note: on the morning of the 22nd, JSC discovered that they had no signup sheet, ergo, they had so signups so the trip was cancelled.)

Michael Mahnke spoke about his proposal to meld nature and art as a form of outdoor art show at Journey's End. He'd be assisted in this by his friend, architect Julian von Schulanburg. Their vision of a trailhead gateway, benches, bridges, and steps have been printed and will be on display at the next Tuesday Night Live on August 26.

The LANDS report for Journey's End has arrived. It suggests interpretive trails and signage; the report will be on display at TNL.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT

The Village is still considering applying for a Village/Town Municipal Planning grant, much to our disappointment. We'll be able to apply if they do not; meanwhile, the Village has priority.

We can look into the LANDS program for some possible help for surveying natural resources in the fall semester.

TREE BOARD

The Board pruned the plum tree at the Municipal Building; it looks like a million bucks. They'll be tackling messy trees till it gets cold and will resume in the spring.

PADDLER'S TRAIL

A meeting with Doug Molde, Eric, Sue, and Noah Pollack and Steve Libby of the Vermont River Conservancy took place at Doug's office and these points were decided:

Identify access points on the river. Formalize them, if possible.

Identify and formalize informal camping spots.

Mark portages.

Eventually produce an informative map of the Lamoille from Greensboro to Lake Champlain, showing campsites, access, shoals, islands, portages, problem areas, rapids.

The VRC has pledged $1000 as seed money to the project. Sue will write an article for the newspapers.

TREE INVENTORY

The state will send 4 people out to help inventory and assess all the trees in the town's ROW on Sept. 8, using their new technological system. Sue and Lois will attend. A map will be produced identifying possible hazard trees.

MISC

Eric brought stupendous oatmeal raisin cookies.

Turns out Louise doesn't bake but works with a chef! And we know what sort of cupcakes he can create!

Eric will be on the next agenda to discuss the track survey.

The Tuesday Night Live displays have gone well, with lots of interest from the public.

Adjourned at 8:45 PM. Next meeting is on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 PM at the Library. We revert to our normal third Tuesday of the month meeting time.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary.