

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 15, 2015

Present: Sue Lovering, Eric Nuse, Ann Marie Bahr, Laura Branca, Noel Dodge, Louise von Weise, Dean Locke. Absent: Lois Frey

The November minutes were approved.

#### JOURNEY'S END PAPERWORK

Lois and Eric met with Lydia Menendez to settle the paperwork for the in-kind grant match. Our local match was more than sufficient. Lydia expressed appreciation for Johnson's volunteers, who, she says, get more done than other towns with whom the River Conservancy has worked. Aka: she thinks we're swell!

#### KIOSK: NEXT STEPS

Cal Stanton's students will design and construct the roof of the Journey's End kiosk. Lydia will send a list of donors to post. Over the winter we'll also decide what to post as far as rules and how to implement them and we'll produce a map.

#### BEARD'S RECREATION PARK

The papers were passed on December 9; it now belongs to the town. Lydia asked if the CC could team up with Recreation to throw a celebratory party in the spring. We, naturally, agreed that we'd be delighted, since that's our best thing.

#### LEASH LAW ORDINANCE

Laura drafted a new ordinance for dog control. We decided that the CC's concern is more for what happens on trails and public lands and we will leave decisions pertaining to the Town/ Village to the Selectboard. We did decide that there should be higher fines than those presently set, that leashes should be required on the Rail trail, public swimming holes and Journey's End. Noel pointed out that all of Journey's End and Prindle are deer wintering areas and that Fish and Wildlife requires that no dogs are allowed within 300' of a wintering area.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE TOWN PLAN

We got the Natural Resource grant! Arrowhead will begin surveying in the spring. Meanwhile, we will draw up a list of properties for them to visit. It would be beneficial to have Arrowwood come and talk to us, possibly on the January meeting, even though they will charge for it. It's possible that we could get someone from another Conservation Commission who has been involved in a similar project. They would like our input on the project and we're all in favor of being involved.

We can have an informational meeting during the winter that would inform the public of the advantages of having their land inventoried; that would give landowners an incentive to open their property to the project.

#### ANIMAL TRACKING INITIATIVE

Jeezum Crow, how can you track animals with no snow?? We'll hold off on it for now, Perhaps Arrowwood will have suggestions on how to do it best.

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Noel will hold a preliminary meeting at the Library; the Count will be on December 27. He will need sector coordinators. Some of the regulars will not be attending this year.

#### MARCH GLADNESS

Noel will talk about Arctic Gyrfalcons, Sue will talk gardening, and Eric will talk about something that involved a lotta bugs. Details will come later. Eric has limited time in March; probably the end of the month would suit him best.

#### IDEAS FOR NEXT YEAR

Suggestions included a management plan for Prindle, a Fall Cleanup Day, aka Orange-Up Day, an update on the Gomo management plan and trail maps.

#### MISC:

- We had a yumyum fest of magnificent proportions! Many thanks to everybody who brought goodies- Dean, Laura, Eric, Louise and Sue. You gotta love Christmas!
- The Lamoille Anglers has disbanded and dispersed their funds. They gave the Paddler's Trail \$1000 for repairs to the river access point at Bridge Falls.
- The Regional Invasive Insect Preparedness Team's first two 30-second PSA videos are done and the RIIPT is preparing for stardom. They're a hoot! Sue will bring them to show at the January meeting.
- Sue will bring the pamphlet on Prindle to show to those who haven't seen it.

Adjourned at 8:10

Next meeting is January 19 at the Library at 6:30

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary