

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION JULY 17, 2014 6:30 AT THE LIBRARY

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Eric Nuse, Jeanne Engel, Cynthia Perry, Noel Dodge, Carley Coolidge

Absent: Ann Marie Bahr

Guest: Louise Von Weiss, Lydia Menendez

MINUTES

The June minutes were accepted and pronounced “sparkley and shiny” by Carley.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Jeanne has asked Rosemary to carry over the balance of 3260.49, which includes our reserve fund. We spent \$100 for brush hogging and \$100 for Green Up during the last fiscal year. The purchase of the canopy for \$85.58 will be recorded in the new fiscal year, beginning on July 1.

MOTION

The motion was made and seconded, thirded, and fourthed, that Lois Frey is the best chair anywhere and that we’re darned lucky to have her. Passed unanimously! We know what we’re talking about here.

UPDATE ON GOMO TOWN FOREST

Eric reports that VASA’s work has progressed well on the old road; the water problem has been taken care of with the addition of water bars. On the Waterville side, the side trail has been used and a 60” wide bridge has been built. The ATV club’s equipment wasn’t big enough to move the size rocks required to close-off the side trails, therefore we can drop trees and brush across them when we do apple tree release.

The local ATV club will follow up with finish work.

It’s suggested that we all hike on Gomo occasionally to keep an eye on the roads. Many of us are still in favor of Noel’s flipper idea.

JOURNEY’S END

The Vermont River Conservancy’s Lydia Menendez visited and brought us up to speed on the plans for Journey’s End. The VRC will draft a letter of thanks to be sent out to donors. They’ll also draft a letter informing donors of the status of trail-building and improvements at the site.

Lydia promised again that a final donor list will be sent to Lois.

The grant funds for trail work should be arriving in September. Although the VYCC won’t begin work until 2015, a few things need to be addressed on the trail now, principally the corduroying of wet areas.

A celebratory thank-you party will be tentatively scheduled on the Sunday after Labor Day weekend and will be a simple open house with CC members leading small groups of partiers down to the falls. Lydia will suggest sources for funding for food, etc.

PRESERVATION OF BEARD'S SWIMMING HOLE

The River Conservancy has a new project: the conservation of the section of the Gihon River known as the Beard's swimming hole. Discussions are underway to facilitate the purchase of the land, with 95% of the funds to be provided by the Conservancy. The CC will not be acting as fundraisers this time but will act as stewards to the property. In the past, Hubert Beard had a beach, picnic table, and rope tow for the locals; in the future the town will be able to enjoy the site again. There's no rope tow in the plans.

Lydia will approach the Selectboard, hopefully at their next meeting.

CONNECTIVITY PROJECT PLANNING GRANT

Jeanne reports that the grant application is going nowhere, since the Planning Commission and the Village are competing for it. Lois feels that the Selectboard wasn't against it and the PC endorsed it, ergo, it's not down yet. It's due in September.

Eric hasn't yet heard back from Jim Andrews about tracking instruction.

TUESDAY NIGHT LIVE ACTIVITIES

Sue is putting displays up each Tuesday and asked for any thematic ideas. The in-the-works Paddlers Trail will be displayed in August and Journey's End trails and natural history will be the subject one night. The Christmas Bird Count will be featured on the last night. Bats are a subject that could be used, too.

Cynthia volunteered to help out. Thanks, Cynthia! And thanks to Jeanne, who is there every Tuesday.

LANDS RFPs

Three proposals were submitted to LANDS: two for trail work and one for a ROW hazard tree inventory. The decision should be made this coming week. (Note: as of Friday, July 18, the Johnson Recreation Trails Inventory was accepted. It was suggested that the other two proposals be submitted for the Fall-semester LANDS program.)

MISC:

~It's Noel's birthday! We sang Happy Birthday when the man of the hour walked in. He brought his own birthday party in the form of heavenly Vt. Brownie Co. brownies with mint filling....be still, my heart!

~ Louise is thinking of joining the CC. Great news! We'll be whole again with all our seats filled.

~A couple of folks from town have offered help with trail building.

~ This five day thing is a real...you fill in the blank.

Adjourned t 8:40 PM

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary.