

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2015

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

The October minutes were approved.

KIOSK AT JOURNEY'S END

Sunday, November 22 is the day we'll finally pick up the panels and erect them at Journey's End. Sue and Noel will bring post hole diggers and a pickax, drills and shovels. Lois has lag bolts and screws. Be there at noon! It'll be a slamma-jamma!

We'll design and build a roof for the kiosk after it's installed and we figure it out.

LEASH LAW ORDINANCE

Laura has reviewed ordinances from surrounding towns and has found that they allow voice-controlled dogs off the leash in certain areas. Since our ordinance was written in 1997, it was agreed that it's time for an update and that we should examine Johnson's public places to see where such a law might apply here. It was agreed that care must be taken with language and that ramifications should be included. Laura will outline a new proposal and send it to us before the December meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE TOWN PLAN

A copy of the proposed Natural, Scenic and Historic Resources component of the new Town Plan was sent out to CC members on the afternoon of the day of the meeting; nobody had a chance to consider it at length. Our feeling at this point is that it needs to be less generalized. For starters, the threat from invasive forest insects needs to be included. Everyone should look through the information, decide what's missing or should be changed, and email those thoughts to Lois, who will forward them to Lea.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

It'll happen on Sunday, December 27. Coordinator Noel will send out an announcement with information about an organizational pre-meeting that will take place at the Library about two weeks before the Count. Anyone can sign up by contacting Noel or visiting Audubon.com and signing up in the CBC section.

Everybody (we hope!) will gather afterward at the Charlmont for dinner and bird talk.
PS- bring your cameras this year!

BEARD'S RECREATION PARK UPDATE

The closing will be on December 9 and an interim management plan is in place. The CC will be monitoring invasive plants, including knotweed and honeysuckle, with the hope that the

town and volunteers will join us in removal of those vegetative pests at some point. We won't be doing that by ourselves.

A grant has been awarded the Paddler's Trail that included a nice addition of funds for stone steps at the Beard's parcel that will lead to the water's edge.

INVASIVES

Sue conferred with Nat Kinney about removal of bush honeysuckle in the Mill Park. Tentative plans are underway to get a bunch of volunteers and heavy equipment together in the spring and pull out the shrubs. Knotweed will be dug, too, at the Park's entrance. Interest has been expressed by a member of the public, who is willing to volunteer. Hopefully, the CC will be there, too.

MARCH GLADNESS

We'll star in our own show once again in March with our Sunday afternoon presentations. Noel offered to do a talk on Arctic Gyrfalcons (snicker) and Sue could talk about some aspect of gardening again. Ideas from everyone are welcome.

MISC:

- Ann Marie is still interested in hosting a book group but hasn't yet spoken with Jeanne Engel. She'd like to tie it in with the idea of food resiliency and make the ideas discussed global in scope.
- Great cookies, Lois!!
- Laura mentioned the hard-to-comprehend fact that some folks hike to the top of Prospect Rock and tend to toss bottles and rocks off the cliff to land on the trail below. Hikers are at risk and broken glass is rife. How dumb can people be? Although it is not town property, Laura will make a sign saying 'don't do that' for the ridge.
What next?

Adjourned at 8:35.

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

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary

