

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION...NOVEMBER 18, 2014...6:30 at the LIBRARY

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Jeanne Engel, Noel Dodge, Eric Nuse, Carley Coolidge, Louise von Weis, Ann Marie Bahr. Absent: Cynthia Perry
Guest: Taylor Engel

The October minutes were approved as printed.

LANDS Project

The LANDS students pulled off another impressive effort on behalf of Johnson and the CC on Nov. 12 and 13, when they inventoried knotweed and other invasives along the Lamoille River. They'll produce a map and suggestions as to how to work with the community to encourage removal of these plants. Their project presentations will take place on December 2 at UVM from 2-4:00; anyone wishing to attend are welcome to join Sue and Lois.

GOMO FOREST UPDATED

Roy Marble brush hogged the upper field above the beaver dam and it looks great. It's now open enough to see the stone wall boundaries. Roy suggested that we cut back some small trees and brush at the edges of the field, which we will do when we do apple tree release in the spring.

The motion was made, seconded and passed to give Roy a \$150 gas card. Lois will take care of it.

KNOTWEED AND LYME'S DISEASE

It's still a mystery. Ann Marie will look into it and report to us at the December meeting.

EMERALD ASH BORER

One ash peeling session has yet to take place by the state in late November. If no EAB is found then, Vermont will have gone another year without the bug being found.

The Regional Invasive Insect Preparedness Team met on Nov. 5th and outlined plans for an informative media blitz and educational push in the spring. Representatives from Stowe and Wolcott have joined the team, widening the desired county-wide approach to dealing with the fallout of an infestation.

TREE BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Tree Board will receive bound reports of the Johnson Tree Inventory in November.

They will not meet again till February, unless there is unforeseen business.

THE CC IS HOT!

Thanks, Noel, for getting us onto the web and connected by email! Our new site is swell, complete with a picture of the CC looking quite svelte and heading out to drop trees at Gomo. We can post information and pictures. Noel will assist that process,

which only he understands, and promised that he'll conduct a tutorial for the tech-clueless at an upcoming meeting.

PADDLER'S TRAIL UPDATE

Eric, Noah Pollack, and Doug Molde will present an informational meeting for the public on December 2 at the Municipal Building from 7-8:30. A LANDS crew did a river survey from Jeffersonville to Milton earlier in November; they will identify public and private land along the river, and potential campsites, portage trails, and access points. Ideally, campsites will be established every four to five miles. This LANDS project will also be presented on December 2 at UVM.

Sue suggested writing an article for the front page of the Transcript to publicize the Trail.

Eric et al. have spoken with the Northern Canoe Trail folks, who think it would be possible to create a circuit around the Lamoille trail to connect with their northern ones.

JOURNEY'S END

Lois and Sue walked along the brook and think it would be a great place for a nature trail. Perhaps the LANDS students would take that on in the 2015 summer session. It was decided that new flagging on the trail this winter is a waste of time. We'll snowshoe at JE for the Winter Carnival instead of Prindle and will mark it then.

There is a significant amount of knotweed on the stream that ought to be addressed.

There's also a significant number of underwear found down there lately, leading us to wonder just how forgetful kids have to be to leave the woods without their undies. When Sue observed that we only find men's shorts hanging from trees, someone made the statement that women don't leave their underwear behind. Noel's answer to that: "Oh yeah?"

The signs at the trailhead have been stolen. Sue will replace them.

TRACKING/CONNECTIVITY

Eric has been in touch with Jim Anders, who has conducted a five year track census in Salisbury. He has sent Eric survey instructions so he can teach us and any interested people how to record sets of tracks by day. In the pilot year, we can do a prototype training and a day of surveying, similar to the CBC. This will take place along the Rail Trail, an ideal location as it parallels Route 15 and is safer than walking along the highway. In subsequent years, we may do four times per winter; three days each time.

MISC:

Taylor Engel checked out what we're doing, as he thinks he might want to join the CC. We'd love to have him, though we wonder if he's heard that old saw about watching what you ask for!

No snacks. Darn.

We'll discuss the Winter Film Series at the next meeting.

We ran out of time and didn't get to talk about the Gomo family history and anecdotes, which Carley was to research. Next time.

Eric used the phrase “muckled onto”. How cool is that?
Is there anything you’d like to share with us, Noel?

Meeting adjourned at 8:10. Next meeting is on Wednesday, December 16, at the
Library at 6:30.
Happy Thanksgiving!

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary

DRAFT