

Johnson Conservation Commission
20 October 2015
Johnson Public Library at 6:30 PM

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

Lois Frey called the meeting to order and requested a review of the agenda. No changes were made.

The minutes for September 15, 2015 were approved as printed.

Debrief Gomo & Tree training

*Following discussion the Celebration at Gomo Town Forest was declared a success with about 40 folks including many youngsters who enthusiastically participated in the activities.

*Louise von Weise attended the tree training at the Municipal Building. She would have preferred more hands-on activities.

Journey's End Paper-Work Update

*Lois reminded members that volunteer hours for work at Journey's End will be collected by the Lydia Menendez Parker at the November 17th JCC meeting.

*Following discussion about the dog problem at Journey's End, Laura Branca volunteered to gather information from other towns with more up to date ordinances. She will prepare a brief sheet and send to all for discussion at the November meeting. Laura has made two signs reminding the public that Johnson has a dog ordinance. Noel agreed to place them on site.

Kiosks

Eric Nuse emailed a report that the two 5x5 foot panels, made by the Laraway students are in his possession. Following discussion about poles for the kiosks, it was decided to use cedar poles, which Noel Dodge has on his land. Noel will coordinate with Dean Locke and others to complete the project. Laura has a post hole digger suitable for the task.

Wind energy in the unified town & village plan

It was agreed that the town's position on siting commercial wind projects, (naming the three ranges), as discussed at the Planning Commission meeting (9.8.2015), is well-worded .

Ecological resilience and food resilience

Ann Marie Bahr shared a paper she wrote expressing how town planning is done and giving her thoughts about how it might be done better. She suggested that a reading group might be a good place for introducing some literature and ideas to discuss her suggestions for change. She plans to check-in with Jeanne Engle at the Library. Lois suggested that a project, *Focus on Our Future: Johnson 2020* was initiated several years ago by Howard Romero and Doug Molde. The results from that exercise might form the basis or offer support for a renewed discussion based on Ann Marie's thoughts on social and ecological resilience for Johnson. Ann Marie will follow-up including contacting members of the Planning Commission.

Johnson Natural Resources Inventory

With help from Noel Dodge, Lea Kilvadyova prepared and submitted a Municipal Planning Grant on behalf of the Conservation Commission *to hire a consultant to create a baseline of natural resources data to facilitate the direction of efforts to preserve and protect natural features and to provide a basis for future natural resource definition and quantification.*

Christmas Bird Count

Noel explained that the Audubon Christmas Bird Count is the Sunday after Christmas in Johnson so will be conducted on December 27th. Mark your calendar. Noel will use the Conservation Commission's Facebook page to generate interest and to offer helpful birding information. Participants may set their own schedule with a follow-up dinner to compare notes on Sunday evening at about 5:30 PM.

Plans for November 17th Meeting

There will be follow-up information from Laura and Ann Marie as noted above and Lois will ask Eric Nuse to provide information on the animal tracking initiative introduced last winter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey