

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION, 11 SEPT 2013...6:30 AT THE LIBRARY

Present: Lois Frey, Jeanne Engel, Sue Lovering, Eric Nuse, Jackie Stanton, Noel Dodge, Ann Marie Bahr

Absent: Carley Coolidge, Julia Stanton

Welcome to our new member, Ann Marie! We can spell your name now! Keep up the good cookies!

Change to Meeting Night

It's been changed to the third Tuesday of each month, except for the summer months, when it will revert to the second Wednesday. The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30.

Journey's End Update

Although there still is no closing date, the VRC has sent a letter outlining their intentions regarding management of Journey's End. It proposes bridge building, moving and grading the trail into the falls, parking, and signage, including a sign which would recognize the donors. Much of this was news to the CC. It was agreed that Steve Libby should run this by the Selectboard and see what they intend to pay for and the CC will oversee what the town wants to do.

It was suggested that the LANDS students might do some of the building on their paid semester work.

Steve Libby will attend the next CC meeting in October.

Re: Grant Application

The Village Trustees vote tonight on their intent to pursue "our" grant in order to study Form Based Code Zoning. It would appear they will succeed with that. As far as our needs go, Lea has told Jeanne that some smaller grants may be available that may pertain to priorities in our application. We'll need to re-define costs. Eric points out that the most important part of our plan is connectivity, so let's start with prioritizing wildlife habitat. Jeanne will contact Lea re: we'll pursue the biggest grant we can get to study connectivity. We'll ask Arrowhead for an estimate for a smaller scale report.

Consensus: We'll follow up on a reduced proposal.

JCC Webpage

Information is ready but we'll wait to put it on till the town's new, more user-friendly site is up.

Maps

There are several maps between us, hidden at home. We need to locate them.

Ash Borer Preparedness Meeting

It'll happen on October 2. It will be announced on Front Porch Forum, an article will be written for the News and Citizen, and a reporter will be asked to cover it.

Gomo Forest Plan

It won't take much to create a 5.2 mile loop trail connecting the Gomo trail to the Long Trail; just some brush cutting and water bars. Eric will speak to the state about the protocol required to connect to the Long Trail.

It may be difficult to connect the two so the ATVers won't use it, so perhaps the new trail could start lower where it's rockier and more ATV free. ATV activity has caused more trail damage and there's garbage, too, so something needs to be done about the roads that are washing out. We should talk to the Selectboard about keeping ATVs off certain areas and required maintenance.

It was decided that we should find out who in Johnson belongs to the ATV Club, invite them to our meeting, and make them aware of the damage being caused. Lois will do some research.

Roy Marble hasn't responded to Eric's call re: brush hogging. If he's not able to do it, perhaps we can get someone from the Waterville side.

Prindle Kiosk

Ahhh, the saga of the kiosk! Al Ceppetelli has donated 7 packages of roofing shingles, so we have a free roof. Noel assure us it'll be done before the ground freezes.

Bird Count. The Date this year will probably be Sat., Dec 28,. This year we can get the date out and do more advertising than last year. We can also broaden the scope to include feeder counts and have families working together as teams.

Adjourned at 8:15. Next meeting is at the Library on Tuesday, Oct. 15.
Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary