

Johnson Conservation Commission...Jan. 21, 2014...6:30 at the Library  
Present: Lois Frey, Eric Nuse, Jeanne Engel, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge,  
AnnMarie Bahr, Carley Coolidge  
Absent: Jackie Stanton, Julia Stanton  
Guests: Doug and Linda Molde, Lydia Menendez

#### PLANS FOR JOURNEY'S END

The Vermont River Conservancy's Lydia Menendez visited in order to discuss goals and plans for Journey's End. Kudos and congrats were exchanged all around and all agreed that the beer was the winning ingredient in the fundraising recipe.

Lydia did not give us a final tally of the donations but promised to send one.

1. A celebration and public thank you: We decided to celebrate with an informal "open house" on site or outdoors somewhere, perhaps in September after some/all of the work is completed. Neither the VRC nor the CC is interested in paying for a party; we may be able to get food donations from businesses. It'll mainly consist of a ribbon-cutting and a big thanks to the donors.

2. Stewardship and management goals The CC will set the tone; Lois will be the contact person. We will improve the parking area with the town's help, erect signage, mark boundaries, improve trails and wet areas, and build at least one bridge.

The VT Youth Conservation Corps may be hired to help with improvements, at a cost of \$7000 to \$8000 per week, to be done in the summer. Their staff may write a VT Recreational Trails grant, for which VRC would be the applicant, as Johnson has two grants open already. Lydia formally requested that the CC support drafting of this grant, to be approved by the CC. Doug Molde suggested that Lea Kilvadyova can act as the administrative person. Lydia or Lea will send us a draft for this by February 28.

#### WINTER CARNIVAL

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Carnival will take place on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> and the CC will again sponsor the snowshoe trek on the Prindle trails. Noel, Carley, and Eric will lead, with the possible help of Judie Cotnoir. Instead of a display table, Sue will provide some games or activities for the kids at the school.

#### GOMO TRAILS

Eric updated Forests, Parks, and Recreation about our meeting with the ATV club and their intentions. FPR likes the idea of a parallel trail to the existing one to connect to state land, however, they're "still skeptical" about our ability to keep ATVs off state land. And can you blame them? The Green Mountain Club's Dave Hardy and FPR's Diana Frederick will come to the Feb.

CC meeting so we can make plans and possibly find out what funds may be available.

#### EAB PLANNING

Lois, Eric, and Sue will begin the plan soon with possible help from Shelby Perry.

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

38 species were recorded. We will do it again on the first Saturday after Christmas this year. Many thanks, Noel.

#### TREE BOARD

It'll get off the ground when Sue emails those who have agreed to join so a date may be set for the initial meeting. Andrea Perelman at the Studio Center was suggested as a possible member and Noel will ask Peter Dodge if he'd like to join.

#### MISC:

Jeanne reports that the Green Mountain Fund grant application will require a grant writer, as it's detailed and long. Lois said, "No problem. Hand it over."

Eric and Ingrid had Christmas cookies left over. Go figure. Their loss was our gain! Keep those ginger things coming!

Adjourned at 8:30 PM. Next meeting is at the Municipal Building, second floor rear, at 6:30 PM.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary