

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 10, 2018

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Eric Nuse, Noel Dodge, Dean Locke, Jackie Stanton  
Absent: Hillary Emick, Denise Krause  
Guest: Phil Wilson

The March minutes were approved.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Lois bought color and black ink cartridges for Sue to use in printing CC display material.

#### GREEN UP

Kyle won't be available to help but Kelly Locke (and Russell!) will be lending a helping hand. Dean offered to man the cookie coordination, a cushy job if ever there was one. He'll ask folks to volunteer baking enough to satisfy 70 people, which is the number we served last year. Dean will also ask Maplefields if they might donate coffee and urns, as they donated to the folks helping out after the flood.

Lois has posters and the leftover supplies from last year. She has sent a letter to Farm and Garden about donating toys for raffle prizes and has asked Sterling Market for lemonade and supplies; she hasn't yet heard back from either.

Sue and Lois will produce a tasteful adult gift basket, for a prize, that is. Sue hasn't heard back from Ben and Jerry's yet.

Bags will be at the Municipal Building after April 12.

We'll have handouts at the green with info on not handling toxins and needles, and the sheriff's number.

There has been lots of help from non-CC volunteers: The Boy Scouts won't be present this year but the Cub Scouts will clean up the ball field. Meghan Rodier made a map and delivered it to the town clerk's office. Phil Branca will ask Laraway for the use of their two sidewalled tents.

We will send reminders to FPF at intervals and Sue will talk it up in the paper.

#### BAT HOUSES

There's a rumor that the clay cap over Old Mill Park can't be disturbed, so Phil will make a map of the potential house installation sites and send it to Meredith Birkett and Brian Story for their approval. The town and village are joint owners of Mill Park.

The design changed slightly; we'll use two uprights instead of one. Noel will cut hemlocks for uprights and has scrap lumber for cross pieces that will hold the bat abodes. In a decorator touch, Dean will stencil a bat onto each house.

Installation date is Saturday, May 19 at 10:00.

The grant has to be finished by June 30.

## MARCH GLADNESS

All four were successful. Numbers weren't high but the people who came were really into each subject.

Jackie voiced a wish to have more such programs over the year and that idea was seconded by Sue. Topic suggestions included a bird walk, moonlight snowshoe, new moon astronomy walk, wildflowers, amphibians, and a tree walk. Immediate plans weren't made but the idea's proponents will keep proponing.

## SIGNAGE

We need Cal Stanton to send us a list of required supplies for three kiosks by June 30. They'll be installed at Gomo, Prindle, and Beard's Recreation.

It was agreed to post 'no glass; cans only' signs at Journey's End.

## VOREC

Eric attended the latest meeting. The bill has passed in the Senate and has gone to the House, where its popularity will probably cause it to pass. It won't fund more than a couple of towns, one of which will probably be Rochester. Stay tuned.

## RESILIENT RIGHT OF WAYS

This upcoming project comes from FPR's Urban Forestry division and will probably involve Johnson's Tree Board and CC. It's all about assessment of composition and health of rural roadside vegetation and best management practices for keeping that vegetation healthy. FPR's Joanne Garth will appear at the next Selectboard meeting on April 16 to discuss the project and Sue will attend.

## McCUIN'S ISLAND IS OURS

Yay! We've got an island of our own! Trouble is, it has a whole lot more knotweed and honeysuckle than palm trees. It has a healthy butternut and elm as well; how cool is that?

It'll also have us. Along with the Paddlers, we'll paddle from Ten Bends for a picnic and inspection of McCuin's on our next meeting on May 8. We'll do shuttle set-up at 5:30 and leave Ten Bends at 6:00, paddle to the south side of the island, have a campfire and hot dogs, along with any other yum yums we decide to bring, and get out by dark. Between 5 of us we have 8 canoes, so there will be no transportation problems.

Eric thought the Vermont River Conservancy might come up with some food money. He'll let us know details as the time is nearer.

The Paddler's will invite the Selectboard and Trustees.

## SMOKE FREE PARKS

On May 2 at 6:00 at the Municipal Building, a meeting will take place to discuss requiring and/or enforcing non-smoking on public lands. The idea has been put forth by Healthy

Lamoille and they want input. For example, there's no smoking allowed at Tuesday Night Live but people do it anyway. Should we enforce it?

Healthy Lamoille will help with signage if we decide smoking isn't appropriate for our lands.

#### MISC

- The Rail Trail has its own cleanup stewards for designated areas. Ours is Ingrid Nuse.
- Trumpeter Swans breed in Alaska but one has been spotted in the Champlain Valley. Trumpeters are desirable; Mute Swans are not.
- Possums carry rabies.
- Dean's apple cookies were superb. Sues' and Lois' great minds concurred on Sterling Market's new pecan coconut cookies...also superb.

Adjourned at 8:50.

Next meeting is on Tuesday, May 8, at 5:30 at Ten Bends, Hyde Park, to proceed to McCuin's Island.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary