

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Denise Krause, Dean Locke, Laura Branca, Ann Marie Bahr, Noel Dodge, Eric Nuse, Louise von Wiese

The January minutes were approved.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Ann Marie reports that our balance is \$4462.83, which does not include the reserve fund.

#### GREEN UP DAY

Unfortunately, Laura will be on a leave of absence and won't be able to do Green Up this year, so Lois will take the lead and the rest of us will do what is necessary to make it the big success it was last year. Laura will provide us with her extensive notes and advice, along with leftover supplies and advertising from last year. She has foamboard to back maps that we can pick up later.

The plan is to recruit participating groups from last year (Boy and Girl Scouts, Laraway) and look into involvement by the College, Elementary School, snowmobile club and Paddler's Trail folks.

The idea of having Palmer's creemee truck was suggested for a new twist. Sue will pursue it aggressively.

This'll be fun, fellow CCers!

#### CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND

We're down to the wire on this; the vote will happen in 3 weeks. We need to send multiple informational messages to Front Porch Forum, talk to specific people who would likely support it, and dedicate Sue's newspaper column to getting the facts out. Eric will post to Facebook. Feel free to take Lois' writeup and use it. The salient points to make are these:

- it will cost no taxpayer money, but will contain donations, fundraising efforts and grants
- that money will be protected from rollover into the town budget
- it'll enable us to leverage small amounts of money we already have into larger ones by working with groups (i.e. as we did with Journey's End, etc)
- on the question of land coming off of tax rolls: we can put conservation easements on land that will leave it privately owned and still on the tax roll
- people will be giving to Conservation, not to the town
- ask people to look at other towns' funds

#### TOWN MEETING

Sue will do a display, which will be set up the night before. "A vote for 9 is fine!" Whoever said that was a genius, given that the Reserve Fund is article 9.

#### MARCC GLADNESS

The schedule has been changed again. The new lineup has sue with wildflowers on March 4, Noel with Natural Resources on March 11, Denise on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Eric talking about Norway on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Everybody will send blurbs to Lois soon so she can get them into News&Citizen's 'What's Happening' on time. All will start at 1:30 and go for about an hour.

#### SIGNAGE PLANS

Lois will call Cal about Laraway's offer to build a kiosk for Prindle. It should be a one panel, (and about 3 tons lighter weight) simple design.

#### ENERGY PLAN

The Planning Commission accepted most of Noel's list of our requirements for the town plan's new energy update. We should attend the next PC meeting on March 5 to discuss it with them. By unanimous consent, Noel will represent the CC in speaking with the PC about this. As Louise said, "We begged, he consented."

#### VOREC

Eric reports that we're in a good position to get grant money from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative, which has pilot project money for communities of less than 5000 people. The group is centered on the business of outdoor recreation and the CC would not lead, but be on their committee to make sure things are done right. We can work on tying together the village's economic concerns, connecting trails, and, perhaps, JSC. We have plenty of infrastructure that can be organized and connected. A grant would enable us to set easements for trails in place, make maps, establish shelters, build in environmental education, etc.

This is all preliminary. We need to establish what the CC as a committee would do to keep environmental and recreational studies hand in hand.

Eric will email the state bill so we can all read up on it before the next meeting.

#### MISC

- We discussed donating \$100 to Green Up Day, though no motion was made.
- The gratitude for Noel's energy work is boundless as the wind.
- We can only hope that the rest of the CC can do as great a job on Green Up as Laura did by herself.
- Creemee truck, huh?

Adjourned at 8:45

Next meeting is on Tuesday, March 13, at 6:30 at the Library

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary