

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 8, 2019

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Dean Locke, Noel Dodge, Denise Krause
Absent: Eric Nuse, Jared Jasinski, Jackie Stanton
Guests: Jacob Vandorn, Kelly Vandorn, Walter Pomroy, Lisa Crews, Kyle Senesac

The July minutes were approved, with the correction of the date for the next meeting to August 8, 2019.

TRAIL BUILDING ON TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES

Walter, Lisa, and Kyle met with the CC to discuss a new idea of theirs: to build trails on the Talc property that would connect with the Rail Trail, Long Trail, and local trails, as well as with canoeing/kayaking on the river, creating an economic driver for the town. Walter proposes using the trails laid out by the LANDS students as a starting point for a project expected to take 5-10 years to complete. He sees the Talc as the village recreational center and would like to present the idea to the Selectboard at their August 19th meeting with the CC's okay. He feels that, as stewards of the land, we should take the lead on what will happen, how it will happen, and where it should happen.

Walter's plan is that the historical value of the Talc Property should come into play, so the Historical Society will be involved. The Tree Board, Selectboard, Trustees, and Sterling Snow Riders will also be part of the plan.

The question we posed is how to make this happen without harming the wildlife that live there. Many environmental issues, permits, and buffers will have to be put in place concurrently. There will not be an answer anytime soon.

Noel proposed that the CC give "tentative approval to move forward with exploration into a trail system with further review and approval of any conceptual plan to be done by the CC." Lois, Sue, Noel, Dean, and Denise agreed with that proposal and voted to work with Walter, the Selectboard, and Trustees, with oversight.

Conservation members will attend the August 19 Selectboard meeting.

CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND

65 surveys have been returned so far.

Dean needs to reiterate where to go online to fill out the survey; he'll post it on Front Porch Forum. Noel sent a link to post on Facebook but it didn't work.

Sue will include in the News&Citizen that we need surveys back by the end of August. We'll talk them up at Tuesday Night Live every week.

COMMUNITY MAPPING

There are no details available, since Eric, who suggested and planned it, isn't present. We will meet on September 10 at the Municipal Building with the Planning Commission and Jens to begin the groundwork for the mapping project. This will take the place of our regular meeting, which would fall on that date.

INVASIVE PLANT ERADICATION

We meet at 9:00 at Beard's on Saturday, August 10, to cut and burn the knotweed.

McCUIN'S ISLAND

Lois reports a large stand of knotweed at McCuin's that will need to be eradicated.

Noel will talk to Eric Sorenson about rescheduling the survey to be done there. We're in agreement that we should keep the issues with the island on the front burner.

TUESDAY NIGHT LIVE

It's going well. There has been a schedule change: Noel, Dean and Sue will do Skins and Poop (rubber, that is) on the 13th; Sue will do trees on the 20th; Dean and Sue will do the Conservation Reserve Fund with maps on the 27th.

NEW MEMBER

Hillary Emick has resigned, so there is an opening. Things to remember: chainsaw, pickup, baking; not necessarily in that order.

MISC

- Lois replaced the journal at Journey's End and removed a couple of offensive remarks from the old one.
- Bats hang out, so to speak, in the daytime. No one has seen them in our houses yet. Noel says it'll take a year or two for them to discover them.

TO-DO LIST:

- Dean will get a link to the survey on Front Porch Forum.
- Sue will write it up in the newspaper.
- Noel will talk to Eric Sorenson to reschedule at McCuin's.

Adjourned at 8:55.

Next meeting is on September 10 at the Municipal Building at 6:00. We go back to meeting on the second Tuesday again.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary.