

Johnson Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2016

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Laura Branca, Louise von Weis, Dean Locke, Ann Marie Bahr

Absent: Eric Nuse

Guest: Denise Krause, Ellen Gershun

The February minutes were approved.

LIBRARY SHADES

A motion was made and unanimously passed by email in early March to provide funding for one half of the total price of new blackout shades for five of the Library windows. The CC split the cost with the Library. Our portion of the total price was \$195.85.

This benefits the CC by allowing the CC to darken the Library for the slide shows during the March Gladness series.

SOLAR SEARCHES

Ellen Gershun, a representative of SunCommon Solar, visited in a quest to locate south-facing rooftops or land within the Village Electric's domain that might host a solar array to be used by the municipality. They need at least 1.5 acres. Lois brought a swell map, which we analyzed, but the outcome was that we had no rooftops big enough or suitable land. Louise showed her the Studio Center's roofs, to no avail.

Ellen also encouraged individuals who wish to pursue solar energy to call SunCommon.

LEASH LAW UPDATE

Lois sent the draft to Lea, who will send it to the Select Board for approval. It may be on their agenda on Monday, March 21.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

Noel sent 7 consultants to Lea for RFPs. She will send them out as soon as possible, as time is running short for a spring debut. For example, vernal pools should be checked by mid-April. We have a year to do the inventory, so spring work may be done next year.

TRACKING INITIATIVE

No snow=no tracks=nothing to report. Next year, we get 'em!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Noel has data! He reports that our CBC resulted in "nothing too special", though there were lots of numbers that included a bunch of cardinals, a saw whet owl and a barred owl.

SUCCESS STORIES FOR AVCC

The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions is collecting CC success stories and we've got a lot of them. It should be +/- two paragraphs and a picture or video. Look up their webpage and upload your story there. Lois says no cookie stories. Rats.

MARCH GLADNESS

Because of the blackout shades, set-up is a lot easier. Interest has been good so far, but attendance has been a little low, probably because the early spring weather has kept folks outdoors. The talks so far (Pollinators by Nancy and John Hayden and Noel's saga of bird-counting on the Alaskan tundra) have been wonderful.

MISC:

- In an inspired bow to Noel's bird talk and the Easter season, Laura came up with delightful homemade dark chocolate peanut butter eggs. Thanks, Laura!
- A Guide to Stinkbugs was given to the JCC. We wondered if somebody was trying to tell us something?
- Noel reports that there are more than 20 species of stinkbugs in Vermont.
- Laura has deer wintering signs in the works that we can hang in the summertime. She suggests posting deeryard warnings for educational purposes on Front Porch Forum in the fall.
- Denise does a great imitation of a caffeinated and sugared-up porcupine!

Adjourned at 8:20. Next meeting is at the Library on April 19, 2016, at 6:30 PM.
Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary.