

## JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION..JANUARY 20, 2015..6:30 AT THE LIBRARY

PRESENT: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Eric Nuse, Noel Dodge, Carley Coolidge, Ann Marie Bahr  
ABSENT: Louise von Weis

The December minutes were approved.

### ADDED BUSINESS

Ann Marie wished to discuss a new educational opportunity. Since she brought two kinds of cookies, we were up for giving her whatever she wanted.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 2014 CBC has been put to bed. Noel, coordinator, reported that participation was down by one half; most cancelled for personal reasons so it is likely we'll see them for the 2015 Count. The bad weather was a big factor in the fact that the numbers were down, too.

### REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Lois asked for suggestions regarding the draft she wrote for the annual report. Sue asked that a paragraph about the Regional Invasive Insect Preparedness Team be included. As well, Lois will add a thank-you to Jeanne for her years of service, now that she has left us. Otherwise, it was perfect.

### A BIRTHDAY PARTY?.....YESSS!

This year marks the tenth year for the Commission, so we decided to throw ourselves a party in April or May. And why not? We've accomplished a whole lot in that time! It will be announced at Town Meeting; meanwhile we have plenty of time to let our fans know about it.

### TRACKING SURVEY

Eric did a test run of the survey protocol at Willow Crossing and came up with some observations. Wind was blowing that day, wiping out signs in the snow, so it's clear that the weather will influence when teams go out to track. It'll be best to go when there has been a night and day of clear weather in order to get readable tracks. He feels that people going singly or teams of two will be sufficient.

The next step is to get some interested folks together and do a test run. We can set up a practice run for the snowshoe hike during Winter Carnival to get public interest aroused.

Eric will talk to Jens Hilke about how we can prioritize areas.

### WINTER CARNIVAL ACTIVITIES

It's on Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, and we won't do anything at the JES gym this year. We will do the snowshoe trek at Journey's End and will meet there on Sunday, February 1 at 1:00 to mark the trail. Lois will get flagging, and lots of it.

Eric can provide some snowshoes on the 21<sup>st</sup> if anyone needs them. We will cancel in case of blizzard or rain.

### JOURNEY'S END

Eric will call Cal Stanton about building the kiosk for Journey's End and will send him the specs. He'll suggest a spring or summer installation.

#### CC ON FACEBOOK

We need to remember to take pictures of ourselves when we do things so we can post them on Facebook. Who knows, we may be signing autographs sometime soon.

#### BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Ann Marie is reading “The Farm as Natural Habitat” and it got her to wondering if we might get a discussion group going around similar conservation-minded books. She has experience leading discussions and wants to run with it. Perhaps Jeanne Engel could help while the CC would sponsor it? There may be possible funding available from the Copley Fund or Vermont Humanities. Barbara Kingsolver was suggested as a possible author to read.

#### WINTER FILM SERIES, REVISITED

Perhaps we could do a March presentation? We’ll follow up at the February meeting.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

-Cynthia Perry has resigned from the CC.

-Carley referred to octopus crossings on Rt. 15. Her tally sheet ought to be interesting reading during the tracking survey.

Adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17 at the Library at 6:30.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary