

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 17, 2016

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

The April minutes were approved.

We welcome Denise Krause, the newest member of our distinguished and esteemed (dare we say deified?) band of merry conservationists.

LEASH LAW UPDATE

Wolcott, Hyde Park and Johnson are working together to design an ordinance that will be enforced by the Sheriff's Department equally in each town. Our concept is being used as a starting point for Johnson.

NATURAL RESOURCES GRANT

Our sub-committee (Lois, Noel and Eric) chose Arrowwood Environmental to do the inventory and the Select Board approved it. Noel and Eric will be the technical contacts. Noel will ask Arrowwood when we should meet with them; it will probably be at the next meeting. Meanwhile, everybody needs to think about what they think should be inventoried.

The Select Board will ask LCPC if they will administer the grant. We agreed that we don't have to get involved in the financial end of it.

The motion was passed that we endorse the recommendations of our sub-committee.

BEARD'S RECREATION PARK UPDATE

No date has been set yet for the celebration but it will probably be sometime in July. The town will be removing the guardrails at the site to improve parking, so it would be advisable to wait to celebrate until that happens. Eric will email Duncan regarding the benches and bike racks that are available to see if they would want to use them there.

KIOSK NEWS

Cal says the roof should be done by the 20th of May; when it is, we'll make a date to install it when Dean is free to carry it. It's probably mega!

SUMMER SCHAEDULE

In order to accommodate TNL, we will meet on the third Thursday in July and August.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Lotsa stuff:

- Trail maps. Sue has the form to request a donation from Concept II to cover trail map printing, laminating and flyer holders. She will get pricing for those and write it up.

- We will do apple tree release at Gomo soon around the field that was most recently mowed.
- Connector trail at Gomo. Eric will contact Dave Hardy about walking the trails to evaluate them. When he has a date, he'll let the rest of us know so we can join them. Eric said a new trail is a two-year process; it has to be a cooperative effort between us and the state.
- Aliens and Gnome-Godzilla. There are some really weird things going on at Journey's End. Research, anyone?
- The Talc property. It ought to be our next big project. We should walk it, so Noel will pick a date and let us know. He'd like to monitor the talc shaft to see whether bats are using it.
- Saturday, June 25, will be the date for the Fairy House event at Journey's End. The Head Fairy Code Enforcer, Laura, will organize and run it and we will all bring natural 'building materials' like feathers, rocks, sticks, etc. so the area doesn't end up scoured. Dean designed a delightful sign that lays out the rules and he will produce it. This will be Johnson's first foray into zoning. We're trendsetters!

MISC:

The next meeting will be on June 21. Probably, most of it will be taken up with Arrowwood's representative.

Dean made mini blueberry pies that weren't. (Why did you torture us with descriptions, Dean?) The thought was priceless.

Eric has taken up hunting for turkeys that are more intelligent than people, with very little to show for it, dinner-wise. They thumbed their noses at him, even when he set out a little custom made decoy that was designed to make them want to beat it up. Go figure. A blueberry mini-pie would have gone far toward easing the turkey-triggered stress.

There were a lot of laffs in this meeting. We are fun, aren't we?

Adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting is on June 21 at 6:30 at the Library

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary