

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 18, 2016

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

The September minutes were approved

Added to the agenda: Animal control ordinance, by Brian Story  
Conservation fund discussion, by Eric

#### NATURAL RESOURCE GRANT UPDATE

It's believed that Arrowwood needs formal permission in order to set foot on private property, so Noel will give landowners' phone numbers to them so they can make direct contact.

Denise drafted a letter that would request permission from landowners for the survey; this draft had no response from the group. She'll re-draft it.

The town has been billed for an installment but no one is quite sure what they have accomplished so far. Brian will find out and email us.

Sue and Paul McLure have given permission for their land to be inventoried.

#### PEOPLE'S ACADEMY STUDENTS

Hunter Tallman and two friends will help with mapping on town parcels and may extend some of the work that was done by LANDS. They'll have six to eight weeks for the project.

#### CARBON FOOTPRINT PROJECT

Ann Marie has a carbon footprint calculator for households that will allow one to compare their methane output to that of the rest of the world. She'll make it available to the public as part of an educational effort. An informational spreadsheet may be compiled from data from those folks who take the survey, so we can see which community has the Sasquatch-sized footprint. Brian suggested contacting UVM to see if there's a tool to record data that we may use. Dean went one better by suggesting we get one Russian hacker, a most practical solution.

Lois felt that we need a larger vision to get across to the public. We can use the data accrued to share with communities, which may raise awareness and inspire change.

#### NATURAL RESOURCE WALKS

Sue had an idea that we could host 4-6 walks per year for the public that feature different themes and be family friendly and educational. Those may include snowshoeing, wildflowers,

birds, wildlife, geology, and the ever-popular Journey's End Underwear Tour. Dean thought geo-caching would be swell. Got ideas? Send them to Sue.

#### OPEN MEETING LAW

Lois explained that we can't discuss decisions that will be made in email. It's okay to discuss decisions that have already been made. Rule of thumb: don't use 'reply to all' and don't talk to a quorum when communicating via email.

#### BEARD RECREATION PARK

Brian Krause found the missing benches and will put them out in the spring. The plaque has been ordered and picnic tables will be ordered as well.

The fence on the Sweetser property is not on the boundary, so people should be encouraged to stay off his land. Perhaps some more stone steps should be added to channel foot traffic.

Lydia Menendez has "super special" donors' lists done and laminated for Beard's and Journey's End.

#### TRAIL MAPS

Dean took GPS points as he walked the Journey's End trail, adding markers for steps, bridge, etc. He may draw in visual aspects on the actual map, making it head and shoulders above anybody else's map. We agreed to keep the stream the destination on the map.

#### ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Brian passed out the Hyde Park ordinance. The question is how does it compare to our version? The sheriff's department wants all the towns they cover to follow the same rules when it comes to animal control.

#### MISC:

- The last Sunday in December is Christmas Day. Noel will ruminate upon this year's date of the Christmas Bird Count.
- The apples are in short supply at Gomo this year.
- Plans are afoot to expand the Journey's End parking area.
- The village was approved for a brownfields study along Railroad Street and into the Talc property. Help will be available for the \$50K-\$60K cleanup. The eventual goal for the Talc property will be development.
- Sasquatch-sized was the name of the yumyum game at this meeting! Lois' inspired almond chocolate bars got rave reviews! Also on the menu were blueberry cobbler, spice raisin cookies, and lime chips with sour cream. Sigh.
- Chances are Brian may think we're outta control. But hey, we've got laffs! We're the funnest board in town!

Recorded by Sue Lovering, Secretary