

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MAY 19, 2015  
6:30 AT THE LIRARY

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Louise von Wiese, Eric Nuse, Ann Marie Bahr  
Absent: Noel Dodge  
Guest: Hannah Bober

The April minutes were approved.

#### JOURNEY'S END TRAIL UPDATE

Lois, Sue, Nat Kinney, and three JSC SERVE students worked to clear the new trail. Eric spent time with a chainsaw to clear downed logs and overhead obstruction.

Noel, Eric, Sue, and Lois worked at Sue's land to harvest 350'-400' of cedar to be used for steps and kiosk uprights at Journey's End. Noel brought along his ATV and trailer, which was used to haul the timber and drop it at JE. The pictures of these hardworking loggers are priceless; check them out at the CC's facebook page. The value of the wood, ATV time, and hours spent will be a sizeable in-kind donation toward the grant match.

VRC sent record-keeping sheets, upon which we should be recording every minute spent dealing with the trail as well as any materials. This includes discussion time.

A crew of 10-12 kids will begin work on June 22. They'll camp on Kyle Nuse's land. Lois made arrangements for them to use the showers at JSC. Eric will check with Joe Padula as to the availability of drinking water and a place to park the tool trailer and will ask Joe and Glenn Callahan for permission to use rock from their land.

The town agreed to drop off a truckload of grapefruit sized rock.

Laraway is ready to start on the kiosk. They'll construct the parts and we'll be responsible for setting the posts and assembling it. We discussed the possibility of asking the Boy scouts to dig the holes and scout out rocks. We agreed that the kiosk should look like the one in a picture circulated by Eric; it was angled and backed with attractive slats.

We looked at a picture of the bridge that Nick Prechel sent and agreed that it will work and that it should look like that. It has a raised approach that will solve the problem of the steep banks and prevent erosion. Materials are estimated to cost \$1001. Eric will ask Alan Lehouillier and Country Home Center about pricing wood and hardware.

It was a surprise to some of us that the grant only covers labor. All materials are to be found by the CC.

We should post information on Front Porch Forum before the team starts work to let folks know what's happening.

#### KNOTWEED

Ann Marie spoke with a couple of people who weren't interested in trying our knotweed - elimination idea of using goats. The concern is that there might be disease hiding in the ground the knotweed is squatting on. She did find that that Zack Woods Farm is looking to sell it, as long as it comes from an organic source.

Hannah, who works at Laraway, is interested in the CC's becoming involved in trail building/knotweed management this summer at Laraway. Discussion took place about the possibility of Hannah spearheading a project in which a group of Laraway students work to tackle the knotweed and clear the riverside trail there. Could Laraway be persuaded to get goats for the project at some point? How could the CC help without getting very involved timewise? Could Laraway create a profitable project if there is a market for knotweed? Kids doing an independent study might make some money from it. Hannah will look into it.

The necessity of replanting the riverbank in order to fight repopulation of knotweed is paramount. Perhaps Kim Komer could arrange planting good sized trees for bank stabilization and knotweed control. A grant might be available.

#### CC SUMMIT

Nothing new yet. Eric will reopen the question with Kim Komer and perhaps plan for a fall meeting.

#### TINY GRANT

Lois wrote a Tiny Grant for a CC banner, posters, and brochures showing trails on the town properties with display containers to attach to the kiosks. These will be nice visuals that will increase awareness of the CC.

#### CELEBRATING OUR BIRTHDAY

We'll plan to have it in September.

#### NEXT MEETING

A potluck picnic at Journey's End will be the plan for the next meeting on June 16 at 5:30. If it rains we'll have it at Lois' house. We'll cook hot dogs on a campfire! There'd better be marshmallow and ghost stories, too! Start praying for sun now.

#### TNL

Sue asked for ideas for the upcoming displays to be done at Tuesday Nite Live. So far we've got invasives-plants and bugs, hiking and trail maps, and bad garden bugs. Sue will look for free material to display from various state agencies.

If anybody has an idea, let Sue know.

#### MISC:

- A fact-finding trip to Gomo is planned and Hannah would like to attend. Eric will send out a Doodle Poll to get folks' availability.
- It is entirely possible that Sasquatch is getting high smoking knotweed down at Journey's End. Who'd-a thunk it?
- Hannah loves the outdoors, is enthusiastic, and brought maple cookies; she's welcome back whenever she wants to meet with us. Thanks, Hannah!

Adjourned at 8:25.

Next meeting is at Journey's End at 5:30 on June 16, 2015. It's a potluck.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary.