

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
JULY 21, 2016

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Denise Krause, Laura Branca, Louise von Weis
Absent: Eric Nuse, Ann Marie Bahr, Dean Locke
Guests: Jeff Parsons, Michael Lew-Smith

The June minutes were approved.

NATURAL RESOURCE GRANT

Jeff Parsons and Michael Lew-Smith, from Arrowwood Environmental, visited us to discuss the natural resource inventory. The conversation centered around reporting sightings on Arrowwood's website and getting the word out to townspeople that we need a broad range of areas on which to record observations. They will give us a list of high priority areas that they would like to visit and we will approach landowners for permission to inventory land in those areas.

We should furnish Arrowwood with a list of willing landowners by mid-August; field work should start then. Late summer and fall will be devoted to wetlands and identifying natural communities and contiguous habitat units such as deeryards and beech stands (bear habitat). Winter is better suited to road surveys and wildlife sightings.

They'll be looking for natural plant communities rather than specific plants.

Of use to them will be data collected in the past in the LANDS work on Gomo, Prindle, Reservoir and the Talc area. As well, there is existing data on high elevation areas that can be accessed. All of it can be used to generate strong data to use against wind development.

We're looking forward to accompanying the Arrowwood folks while surveying bear butts, deer scat and the like.

DEALING WITH INVASIVES

Denise has done a swell job following up on the terrors of poison parsnip. She has spoken with Rick Dyer, Lamoille County's new county forester, who offered to speak to the group about invasives. We could invite him for one of the March Gladness Sundays.

TUESDAY NIGHT LIVE

It has been going well and for the rest of the summer we'll concentrate on displays and conversations concerning the resource inventory and hiking.

BEARD'S RECREATION AREA

The park is getting lots of use. Bruce and Mary Beard plan to donate a firepit. A suggestion was made that we ought to organize a water cleanup.

TALC PROPERTY

A walk is scheduled for Sunday, July 24, at 4:15. Meet at the Goodwin house at the gate.

JOURNEY'S END

The Mormon Elders have volunteered to do weekly inspections and trash pickup at Journey's End and Beard's.

We will work on getting the kiosk filled with postings. Under glass or under plexiglass, that is the question...plexiglass it is.

MISC:

- Dean was absent so there was nobody to pick on. How dreary.
- But the yumyums were outta sight: Tate's chocolate chip cookies, Carr's lemon-filled gingersnaps and raspberry pastries. Be still, my heart.
- The Pickerel Frog is Vermont's only poisonous frog.
- Jeff Parsons does a great imitation of the Tasmanian Devil.

Adjourned at 8:59

Next meeting is on August 18 at the Library at 6:30.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary