

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2018

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Dean Locke, Noel Dodge, Denise Krause

Absent: Eric Nuse, Laura Branca

Guest: Phil Wilson, Hillary Emick

The February minutes were approved.

HILLARY CHECKS IT OUT

Hillary is considering joining the CC and a fine fit she is. She's studied Integrated Environmental Science, and worked with renewable energy, agricultural research at UVM Extension, and conservation practices with farmers. She teaches science at JSC and Champlain. Hillary raises chickens, ducks, and pigs on her farm AND she bakes! She also appears to be able to put up with us.

After she left, we all decided we'll ask her to join us. Former C Cer Jackie Stanton also wants in, and Lois will tell her she's approved, too.

Yay us!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since we no longer have a treasurer, Lois had the report. Our balance is \$4,462.83. \$2000 was added to our budget at Town Meeting, but there are upcoming budget cuts to consider in future so it may not be etched in stone.

Phil will buy materials for mounting the bat houses in the spring out of the \$117 left in the Bat House Grant.

CONSERATION RESERVE FUND

We all agreed that our reserve fund of \$1799.81 should be put into our brand new Conservation Reserve Fund. Lois offered to add her own money to make it an even \$2000 to start it up.

GREEN UP DAY

Decisions made tonight:

- Procedure: Hours will be 8-2:00, on the green. Bags should be dropped off by 1:00. We have the big map for signup, which will be at the Municipal Building. In order that an area doesn't get picked up more than once, everyone needs to sign up on the map to mark their designated cleanup territory.
Should anyone find needles or other hazardous materials, it should be left alone and reported to the Sheriff.

- Music will be played by Anne Marie Bahr from 10-1:00 and the electricity will have to be turned on that morning. Last year someone from the College played, too. Denise will find out who it was and see if they'll coordinate with Anne Marie to fill in.
- Brian Krause will coordinate with Lois about when the town truck will be out.
- Food: Vermont Coffee may donate, and Lois has coupons. We need a way to make coffee. Denise will borrow a big thermos from Recreation.
Sue will apply to Ben and Jerry's for free ice cream. We'll need cups, cones, spoons, and napkins and pickup in Waterbury on the 4th; Sue will manage all that.
It was determined, with a great deal of sorrow, that Palmer's Maple Creemee Truck was too expensive at \$400.
- People will be asked to make cookies and perhaps rice krispy squares. Dean suggested that hot dogs are a lot of work and maybe we should forget about them.
- We'll apply to Sterling Market for donations of lemonade, cups for lemonade, cookies, and fruit for the healthy-minded.
- Publicity: Denise talked to SERVE but they're busy on the 5th. They did offer to hang posters. Sue will talk it up in the paper and we'll get it on Front Porch Forum.
- Volunteers: It was suggested that JSC might help with cleanup at Beard's some time that week.
Lois spoke with and will follow up with Tim Sargent regarding Boy Scout involvement.

BAT HOUSES

There are 14 bat houses and we decided to hang them at Duba Field, the south side of Beard's Recreation, and the north end of Old Mill Park, since they have the necessary proximity to water and sunlight. Backup locations include the Wescom Road Riparian Buffer and possibly the confluence of the Waterman Brook and Lamoille River. We'll keep them out of the way of the playing fields. We'll install them at the end of April, since the grant closes in late May.

Phil and Noel worked out using five peeled hemlock trunks sunk in Kwikcrete with up to three houses on each pole, on the river side of the pole, 20'-30' away from trees, and 10' off the ground. One pole will be erected at each place, with extras going in at Old Mill Park.

In a burst of genius, Phil decided to stencil a bat on the front of each house.

Noel has the hemlocks and will get them out. If he needs help, he will holler. We'll need ten bags of Kikcrete, lagbolts, and Timberlocks that were left over from the bridge project, plenty of muscles and a couple of post hole diggers.

TOWN ENERGY PLAN

The Planning commission accepted most of Noel's requests for the updated energy plan siting requirements. The only change was dropping the size of wetlands from 10 to 5 acres.

MARCH GLADNESS

Noel and Denise's programs were successful and the last one, Eric's talk on Norway, is expected to be.

VOREC

This bill to encourage Vermont's outdoor recreation industry is undergoing changes in the legislature and may not apply to us. Stay tuned.

SIGNAGE PROJECTS

We should make decisions about signs and other expenditures before the new fiscal year begins on July 1. We decided on more and larger, more noticeable arrow signs at Journey's End and a natural (i.e. stones or wood) way to delineate the path into the kiosk at Journey's End. Cal Stanton is working on new kiosks for Gomo and Prindle, of smaller and simpler design. Lois and Sue will work on a list of needed supplies for future use.

MISC

- It takes 45 minutes to make a big percolator full of coffee. That could make production of Green Up coffee a real dawn-cracker.
- Best wishes to Laura, who is on leave. We miss you, Laura!
- If JSC students volunteer to do Green Up work, we should get pictures of the town volunteers and students working together for good future PR use.
- Geez, Dean, you'd miss red hot dogs?

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary

Next meeting is on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at the Library at 6:30.