

Johnson Recreation Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2020

Minutes:

6:07 - Meeting started

Jenn Yuris – Introduced as Rec. Chair

Kyle Senesac – Introduced as Rec. Treasurer

Jenn Yuris – took over the meeting.

Attendees: Lisa Crews, Brian Story, Kate Lalley, Doug Molde, Howard Romero, Jenn Yuris, Kyle Senesac, Kylee, Lea, Scott/Kim, Kyle Nuse, Kim Goodell (Katie Orost and Allen Audette joined late).

1. Approve minutes from September 2020 – postponed because a quorum was not yet present
2. Additions to the Agenda – none added
3. Treasurer's Report – Kyle Senesac – First report as treasurer. Not sure how best to present the information. Kyle S and Lisa C will check in with Rosemary about how best to convey the information to the public each month.
4. Recreation Coordinator's Report – welcomed Jenn and Kyle to their official positions. Let everyone know the status of Kimm Goodell's request to be a Rec. Committee member. Her request is on the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting.
5. Review Proposed addition and improvement to the Johnson Trailhead on LVRT
Started discussion at Brian Story introduced the item and went to Doug Molde for a little background. In late July of 2020 Doug was approached by a neighbor about creating a memorial for her husband. The family has spent summers for over 40 years in Johnson. Because, the LVRT had recently been granted funding for completion Doug thought it was a good idea to ask about the memorial be an update to the existing Johnson Trail Head. Doug consulted with an adhoc committee, Duncan Hastings, Lisa Crews, Lea Kilvadyova, Doug Molde and consultants Howard Romero and Kate Lalley to create a plan to propose to his neighbor. The Selectboard approved the project and gave Doug the go ahead to create a plan and submit it for funding. No one is sure if the plan will go through, but it is a worthwhile project to create the plan. This meeting is an opportunity for public education and input.

Howard Romero took over and gave the details of his sketches.

Original building is a placeholder as the Lamoille Valle Rail Trail (LVRT) grew we would see what amenities we wanted to offer. The port-a-potty year-round has been great for snowmobilers. The plans are designed around site restrictions. We are constricted by the LVRT and the municipal sewer line. The new building would need to be very close to where the existing building is. Design is for a long narrow "railroad style" building. It will be a long arrow building with a utility closet and ticket window for concessions or other uses at Park or LVRT events. The picnic tables will be set apart from one another and face to the west for viewing of the fields and the setting sun.

Howard will be consulting with local equestrians to accommodate their needs into the design.

Detailed slide deck is available here: [Rail Trail Welcome Center](#)

Slide # 2: Picnic tables to the north, accessible bathroom with sink and baby changing station. Closed and drained in winter, we will add a port-a-let for winter use.

Slide # 3: Shows winter port-a-let location, utility and storage location, historical display space. This will be on a combination of concrete floor and fine gravel.

Slide # 4: Elevation slide taken from the LVRT. Center post is a king post that will carry the roof weight.

Slide # 5: South section view with king post removed so you can see what is happening behind it.

Slide # 6: Roof framing.

Kate Lalley presented after Howard. Her presentation was focused on site issues.

Slide # 1: Using the site plan and google earth she showed how the building would relate to the surrounding. She wants to thin some of the invasive undergrowth to define a sense of arrival at the Welcome Center. Her plan calls for better signage, defined parking areas and the possibility for future expansion of the area with food trucks.

She suggested highlighting the Old Mill Park perimeter path with some signage.

Slide # 2: Site specific view. She showed spaces for ADA parking, regrading the access ramp and a wider access ramp from the LVRT to make the turn in easier.

Included in the expansion of the LVRT entrance is a space for a bike repair station.

Slide # 3: Mockup of the new entrance showing the areas addresses in slides # 2.

Slide # 4: Visual cues –Photos to help orient you on the design.

She recommends thinning out some of the trees to improve site lines to Old Mill Park and the LVRT making it one big, open and inviting space.

She also had ideas for adding art to the area and getting creative with the signage to communicate a community brand.

Slide # 5: Current routes in the area laid over an overhead map showing LVRT & local paths that lead to our community assets.

After Kate, Lea was called upon. She supports the idea and has nothing to add at this time.

Doug spoke letting everyone know that Duncan had been able to acquire the costs to bring electricity to the site. He also noted that the Historical Society was asked if they would like to display history on the boards.

Kim Dunkley raised her hand and was recognized. She inquired about the whether or not the bathroom would be closed at certain times, she recommended keeping a port-a-let there year-round due to heavy seasonal use.

Kim supports the bike racks and tools, the idea about food trucks and just gathering in general. She is excited about the idea of adding art to the area, and suggested contacting George Pearlman.

She has concerns about the thinning because Japanese knotweed has been an issue there in the past.

Kyle Nuse raised her hand and was recognized. She 100% supports this project as a business owner and member of the town beautification committee.

Brian Story thanked the presenters and reminded everyone that Rec. still had to complete their agenda.

Doug stated that this had served as the opportunity for public comment and that now the selectboard will look at the financials on 10/19 and the presentation will be made to the family.

6:57 pm – Lisa Crews – assigned as Zoom Host Brian S, Lea K, Kate L, Howard R, Doug M left meeting.

6. Trick or Treat Alternative Event _ Planned 10-31-2020 -Lisa updated Rec. Committee on the planning of this event. 40 people are signed up as of meeting time, donations are coming in, volunteers are emailing to offer help.
The event will be reviewed for COVID-19 safety on 10/20 and the Trick-or-Treat group meets again on the 21st.
7. Soccer – Season Report Season update as of 10/15/2020-
2020 Soccer Season 44 players Had Teams for Pre k/k, 1-2 Co-ed, 3-4 Co-ed, 5 -6 G, 5-6 BGrades 3-6 got roughly 10 practices Pre-K – 2 got roughly 6 practices Johnson, like many other communities played a practice only season. Participants were issued a 50% refund because it was only practice and no games. After reviewing the season, Lisa asked the board to consider a requestfull refund for 1 family. Lisa read a quote from the email requesting the refund. The email stated that “Johnson Recreation did not provide a soccer program this season.” Discussion was had by board members and a motion was made by Katie Orost to not refund, reasoning that our refund policy at registration was clear and that no one had a “normal” season this year. Kyle Senesac seconded. Jenn Yuris called the vote to not refund anymore money. Kyle Senesac, Jenn Yuris, Katie Orost, and Allen Audette all voted I. No more money will be refunded this soccer season.
8. Ski – updates from Stowe & Smuggs Season update as of 10/15/2020
Smuggs will not be allowing for a local’s program on the weekends, but they might be able to host us on Wednesdays.
Stowe still can not tell us what their winter plan is.
Katie asked that we set a date to make a decision on the whether or not we will run the program. It has been determined that we will decide at the November meeting if we can hold the program. We have also reached out to Craftsbury and Smuggs about Nordic programs.
9. Basketball – Season update as of 10/15/2020 We have been told by JES, LUMS, and LUHS that we will not be able to use their gyms this winter. We have contacted outside gyms and brainstormed other places to host a conditioning program or some skills workouts. We are determined to offer our community things to do this winter. We will revisit in November.
10. Futsal – Season update as of 10/15/2020 Cambridge Community Center has offered us a 50% discount to use their space for our Futsal program. The program would operate at a break even if we have the same numbers as last year. We need to confirm what the refund policy through CCC would be if play is canceled due to COVID-19. This will help us determine our refund program for our registration form. The Futsal safety plan will be reviewed by the Johnson Emergency Management Team on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

7:23 Katie Orost made a motion to adjourn – Allen Audette seconded and Jenn Yuris concluded the meeting.