

JOHNSON ONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2020

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Dean Locke, Denise Ashman
Absent: Carrie Watson, Jackie Stanton, Eric Nuse, Jared Jasinski
Guests: Kate Wanner, Gannon Osborn

The September minutes were approved.
Noel Dodge hosted this zoom meeting.

PROTECING LAND FOR THE LONG TRAIL

Kate Wanner, of the Trust for Public Land, and Gannon Osborne, land acquisition coordinator for Forests, Parks, and Recreation, came to ask our support for their plan to acquire a 14 acre parcel on Plot Rd. that will protect a short length of the Long Trail and the wildlife crossing there. The property has a grassy flat one acre area suitable for a parking lot. They're raising public and private money to cover the \$150,000 cost; we wouldn't be asked to fundraise. They ask that at least one of us attends the upcoming Selectboard meeting to voice our support. Lois offered to write a letter of support to the Selectboard.

A unanimous motion was passed to support this cause.

BUDGET

There's nothing new to report.

COMMUNITY VALUES PROJECT

January 13 and 17, 2021, are planned for the first steps in this project. Eric and Jens Hilke are working out the kinks and will report back.

BEARD'S RECREATION

The Selectboard approved the trail project; requests for bids will be sent.

FUNDRAISING

Dean has had no luck researching further the value of the Champlain Basin print. The artist sold some of the prints outright; Lois will research that. Perhaps it and the other prints can be sold through an online auction.

GOMO BOUNDARY

Lois has contacted the new County Forester, Emily Potter, about joining us for our November or December meetings to discuss updating the management plan for the Gomo Town Forest. Mapping of water sources, an inventory, and tree related data should also be addressed.

We'll finish marking the boundaries on Saturday, November 7, at 10:00. Noel will wear his way cool flagging dispenser vest.

KIOSKS

Dean and Noel finished the Prindle kiosk using Noel's hemlock poles and Dean's re-constituted roof section. Dean has a bulletin board for it, and we will install that and the map holder and mark the trail in the spring.

Dean has completed the roof section for the Gomo kiosk and Noel thinks he has the poles. They'll decide where it should be installed while they're on site on the 7th. Norm might agree to move the parts on site with his tractor; we'll ask him.

Way to go, guys!

NEW PROGRAMS

Denise suggested a campfire and snowshoe walk under a full moon. Those occur on Thursday, January 28, Saturday, February 27, and Sunday, March 28. Sue suggested getting someone in who can talk about stars.

MISC

- We should check out the bat houses for wasps' nests and clean them out.
- Where is the disc the LANDS students made that contains their proposed trails at Gomo?
- A person can not share cookies while on a zoom meeting. This has got to stop.

Adjourned at 7:55.

Next meeting is via zoom on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 6:30.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary