JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2020
VIA ZOOM

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Dean Locke, Noel Dodge, Jackie Stanton, Denise Ashman, Carrie Watson
Absent: Jared Jasinski
Guests: Kelly Vandorn, Jacob Vandorn, Emily Potter

The November minutes were approved.

EMILY POTTER'S VISIT

Lamoille County Forester Emily Potter joined us to get acquainted with us and the Gomo Town Forest. The last management plan, which was a wildlife plan, was done in 2006 or 7 and it needs to be updated. She suggested mapping plots within the forest and inventorying them for species and regeneration. The new plan will be done by the beginning of April. Emily will look up the existing management plan, visit Gomo, then talk to us about it.
We would like to see taken into consideration:

- Timber volumes and harvest. Emily will make recommendations. Noel noted a lot of mature timber and that perhaps a few areas can be opened up. As for reseeding with climate-hardy species, Emily suggested oaks and apple, but perhaps not the low-grade timbered red cedar and definitely not pawpaw.
- Lois suggested a firewood operation after logging to clear up limb-wood, etc.
- Invasives mapping and ideas for removal and control, with suggestions made for sources of funding for removal and volunteer labor.
- Retain wildlife connectivity.
- Locate wetlands and create map with GPS to identify easy-to-walk venues.
- Possible development of trails and 'semi' trails, with an eye toward carrying out the LANDS students' vision of a connecting trail with the Long Trail. Again, funding and volunteer labor would be needed. We also discussed a longer-term plan to connect all the town parcels via trails and roads. That may be difficult, given the distance between some of them. There are, for example, about 3 miles between Prindle and Gomo.
- Apple tree release.

We had ideas for maintenance on Gomo, including an annual clean-up around the wetlands and better managed erosion control on the ATV trail that's parallel to Codding Hollow Rd. We could add hand-built water bars by moving stones. This could be done with help from VASA. Lois will put the VASA rep in touch with Noel to talk about it.

RAILING AT JOURNEY'S END

There has been no progress.

COMMUNITY VALUES PROJECT

Though he's no longer a member, Eric still plans to help with it. He hasn't contacted Jens. Lois has, and they've planned a live event with full participation from the community on January 27. Those who don't participate will be able to do so on an online map for two weeks after the eeting. Jens will line up facilitators and will do the work. Noel will take photoshots of each day's data so it doesn't get lost.

We need an outdoor location so Jens can place maps there for community access before we have an online meeting for the community. (Update: we can use the reverse side of the kiosk at the Municipal Building and will have to keep it shoveled out for the duration.)

Monkton has done a successful meeting with 30 people.

FUNDRAISING

Dean plans to take the prints home to photograph them.

MISC:

- It was awful having to forego our annual Christmas potluck: no yum yums, no candles, no tree… We decided to have a whiz-bang potluck on our first in-person meeting, whenever it is.
- There's a snowy owl hanging out at the Morrisville Airport. He's stopping traffic.
- The Christmas Bird Count will be pushed back to early January. Stay tuned for details.
- Noel is too busy to continue with the CBC going forward. If anybody comes to mind that might take his place, let him know.

Adjourned at 8:10.
Next meeting is on Thursday, January 14, 2021
Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary