

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 11, 2021

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Denise Ashman, Jared Jasinski, Jackie Stanton  
Absent: Dean Locke, Carrie Watson, Peter Hammond  
Guest: Lauren Hwang-Finkleman

The October minutes were approved.

#### EAB VIDEOS

They're here! And Lois and Noel will be famous! We watched them. The updated videos reflect the presence of EAB in Vermont, which was not the case when they were made in 2015. The fifth and newest one is called Treatment, and informs about what can be done to save an ash. Lois and her flyswatter, a talking ash tree, the giant bug, and Noel with his tubing and drill all make it a dandy.

Sue will send the videos to local TV stations in April to be shown as PSAs and they'll be sent on flashdrives to anyone who can use them for educational purposes. They will be put on the CC facebook page.

#### RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

A long and thoughtful discussion brought out these points for further thought:

- To begin, we should each review the Natural Resource Inventory and the Natural Resource section of the Municipal Plan for 2016-2024 (pp 16-26), both available on the town website.
- Consider the Community Values Survey.
- Consider the McCuin's Island debacle.
- Outline who we are and our concerns and position:
  - Why are we doing this? Our mission is stewardship. Our concern is the potential for unmitigated development on town property.
  - Added concern is the negative impact on the natural world; we want to minimize destruction of local flora and fauna.
- Set forth best uses and recommendations for our properties.
- List sensitive species.
- List specific beliefs such as we want to keep people off of sensitive areas and that we don't support trails in deeryards. Most of those are already identified in the Natural Resource Inventory.
- Consider the importance of seasonal cycles; their limitations and vulnerabilities.
- Add proactive ideas that would help protect in advance.
- Add positives, not just negatives.
- Make incentives for private landowners.
- We don't have the respect or attention of the selectboard or trustees, who are willing to sign on to any recreation project that comes along without consideration of nature. How do we get that respect? A suggestion was made that we can get on the

selectboard (the reaction to that was shoot us now) but at least attend every selectboard meeting. Lois already does.

The idea of presenting a position statement without having to do a full-fledged management plan is favored by Noel. Do we want to consider that as well?

There aren't many Recreation Plans to be found in Vermont; Harford has one on their CC website. It sets down firm rules about such things as ATVs using one road on their town forest and the restrictions around that. It could be used for guidance.

The conversation will continue at the December meeting

#### BUDGET

The request was made for our usual \$1500 allocation in the 2022 budget. Along with our present balance, it's to be used on property maintenance, outreach, communication, kiosks, Green up, and March Gladness.

#### KIOSK

Nope, not done yet. Jared and Dean will continue to try to get the pieces up to Gomo via Norn Larow.

#### MISC

- We agreed to support Lisa Crews' efforts to install a pollinator garden at Old Mill Park, which would include dumping topsoil on top of the existing soil cap. Denise will let Lisa know.
- No one mentioned the December potluck.

Adjourned at 8:26

Next meeting is on December 9, 2021

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary