

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

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

The August minutes were approved, with the agreement to add to the minutes the statement listing our wishes regarding the work being done at Gomo Town Forest that Lois and Noel wrote and sent to the Selectboard.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

We agreed that we should be doing some educational programs; our budget has \$2000 for communication. We'll start with a 3-5 minute video about bats and bat houses, with the goal of inspiring people to build and install them. A link can be added for instructions for building them. We can follow up with another one in March about living with bears, with a link to the state's information about them.

Since Sue and Lois have plenty of experience with Demars Media with the Regional Invasive Insect Preparedness Team/Tree Board's EAB videos and their recent updates and added video about treatment for EAB by the Conservation Commission, Sue will call Chris Demars for a sit-down and estimate for a bat video.

These videos can be posted on facebook and youtube. Peter will look into creating a youtube account for us.

GOMO KIOSK, BAT HOUSES

No lumber has been purchased yet and the kiosk is still at Dean's. We decided to buy all the necessary materials to repair or replace the Wescom and McLure's bat house installations and the railing at Journey's End. All the material needed for the kiosk is at Dean's.

Dean, Noel, and Peter plan to replace the JE railing on Thursday, the 15th or Friday, the 16th, but will confirm the dates. Peter may be able to borrow a wheel from the fire department or they could use his canoe trailer to transport lumber to the bridge.

Dean will ask the public works crew if they can get the kiosk pieces to Norm's.

PICNIC TABLE AT BEARD'S RECREATION

It was decided to use staymat under the handicapped picnic table instead of woodchips. Dean has returned it to its proper location twice, so a plan was devised to anchor it underneath the ground when that's done. The road crew, who has been a very big help, has all the needed materials and will dump the stone on the parking lot, coordinating with our removal of the grass under the table and our being able to move the stone into place with wheelbarrows.

Dean will set up a plan with the road crew to drop material on Friday, September 16, and we can finish it on the following Sunday, the 18th. The next weekend (Sept. 23-25) will be a fallback date.

McCUIN ISLAND

No visit was made over the last month, so Lois and Sue will check it out, along with looking at the bat houses at McLure's.

The Paddlers' website has been updated to say that camping is limited to 3 tents and 8 people, and has taken out references to the plants we were concerned about. It remains to be seen when new maps might reflect this change.

CC BYLAWS

They need to be changed, as our current ones are illegal. We have no choice but to follow the state's rules, since conservation commissions are under state statute. Lois updated our bylaws and handed out a draft. Perhaps the most important change is that any member of the CC must live in Johnson, which impacts Denise and Carrie. They can remain on the commission until their terms expire.

MISC

- It's not too early to start planning a screening party.
- Noel's game camera videos of fishers, grouse, and a flicker in a sand bath are swell!
- Norm has hung 'Stay on the trail' signs at Gomo. Bake that man a brownie!

Adjourned at 8:40

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary

Next meeting is on Thursday, October 13, at 6:30 at the municipal building.