

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2022

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

The September minutes were approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Lois obtained the financial statement for the period ending on June 30, 2022. Expenses for the year totaled 2230.30, leaving a balance of 3288.37. Lois needs receipts from Dean for the purchases he made.

The lumber for the bat house project hasn't yet been bought.

Dean has agreed to be the new treasurer and purchasing point person.

BYLAW REVIEW

The new bylaws were unanimously accepted, with this change: in Paragraph IV Officers, 1a: "for inclusion in the town report" will be added to the second sentence to read "(S)he shall submit a brief annual report to the Selectboard for inclusion in the town report,"

GOMO MANAGEMENT PLAN

County Forester Emily Potter tells us she's too busy to do the management plan update that she promised to do almost two years ago. It would cost thousands to hire someone else to do it. Lois has asked the Selectboard to use ARPA funds to provide for ecologically informed reports on the Gomo and Talc properties.

A management plan is necessary for timber management and production. We would want to do a timber plan for habitat improvement.

BAT VIDEO

Sue and Lois met with videographer Chris Demars, who is interested and willing to proceed with a 3-5- minute piece. Lois and Sue provided ice cream, Chris provided pie, we all provided ideas, information, and contacts. He will let us know when he has a script to review. Expect a winner.

Needed is footage we can use of bats in flight. Sue will call Fish and Wildlife.

PICNIC TABLE

Dean left before this discussion could take place. It's unknown whether the stone and staymat was ever installed under the table.

McCUIN ISLAND

Noel met with Noah Pollack and Kim Jenson to review the Paddlers' plan to spray the bush honeysuckle. He recommended they cut it and stump treat it by hand to avoid contaminating fragile plants. They reported treating honeysuckle on September 15.

Noel took several pictures that record things that the Paddlers have done after saying they would not. A pit toilet is dug into the island in close proximity to the water. A journal contains a

camper's tale of disregarding the campsite and signs to bushwhack across the island for a 'better' site for his group. Presently there is no sign of the plants we were watching.

We are fed up with the Paddlers' doing so many things they promised not to, with no regard for a fragile environment. We need to get Noah back to discuss where we go from here. Noel will draft and email and send it to Lois so she can send it from the JCC email address. She'll cc the rest of us.

We should plan to inspect the island in the spring and locate vegetation of interest.

JOURNEY'S END BRIDGE

Noel reports that the vertical supports on the bridge are rotten and should be repaired. The bridge itself is in good shape; the rail isn't. He and Dean put up a handrail. Jared suggested adding a second toddler-height rail.

Noel and Dean will buy pressure treated blocking to fix the uprights.

MISC

- One of our key responsibilities is to educate the public about the value of the land and the best way to protect it.
- Dean and Russell made brownies and spooky pretzels. It was the first and probably last time any of us will ever eat eyeballs on a stick.

Adjourned at 8:45

Next meeting is on Thursday, November 10, at the Municipal Building at 6:30.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary