

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2022

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Denise Ashman, Dean Locke, Peter Hammond, Jackie Stanton

Absent: Aurora River (aka Carrie Watson), Jared Jasinski

The November minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dean reports no purchases and no change in the budget.

In October we voted to have Dean and Noel buy pressure treated blocks needed to augment the Journey's End bridge uprights. They have yet to do it and need to get the measurements again.

COMMUNICATION VIA YOUTUBE

Give that man a cigar: Peter got us a YouTube channel! At no cost! Congrats to the new vice-chair. He posted a video of the falling snow in his back yard that was pretty exciting, seeing as it was on our channel. The account is presently in Peter's name and email address but that can be amended.

The next step is to promote it. We can announce it on Front Porch Forum, put a link on the CC Facebook page, and on the CC website. Lois can give him a flash-drive with the EAB videos to post and Noel can provide links to other videos related to our cause.

TIMELINE FOR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

After a review of what has been accomplished since we started talking about this concept, we agreed that we need to move it along and get it done. We brought it to the Selectboard in May, 2022, and never answered their questions. We decided that we should:

1. Get the Selectboard's okay for creating this policy.
2. Agree to a four-day turnaround with a recommendation once we have the request in hand.
3. Create a simple form that delineates proposal details, contact information, location, start/end dates, what group is represented, and a 5-10 sentence summary of the project. Sue will create the form.
4. Completed forms will be emailed to the JCC email address.

Peter suggested that we should have a trail inventory in order to answer the question of whether we have enough of them. We all agreed. What is there aside from the Long, Rail, and Journey's End trails?

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Noel doesn't have time to coordinate it and the Stowe group has dropped out. The count circle still exists, so someone else could take over as coordinator. Jackie will contact Lisa Zinn, who teaches ornithology at NVU, and might be willing to take it on.

Though it's not the same, we could do the Backyard Bird Count on February 17-20. We'd promote it and ask folks to send their results to the CC. We could do a March Gladness around the final results. Check it out at birdcount.org.

MARCH GLADNESS

Our Sunday afternoon programs will resume at last. The proposed schedule is set at:

- March 5: The Library would like to co-host a snowshoe hike. Trail to be determined.
- March 12: Jane Sorenson on Landscape Design for Pollinators. Sue will contact her.
- March 19: Green Mountain Club's Backcountry Caretaker Program. Sue will contact them.
- March 26: Noel will do INaturalist or the Backyard Bird Count.

Lois will check out the library and Jenna's House for space. Suggestions for next year included riparian restoration and mindful camping.

BAT VIDEO

We have a script and some footage of bats in flight. Things are moving along.

ROADSIDE MOWING

We should notify the road crew as to best timing for mowing invasives. We need to create/find a sheet that lays out the timelines for flowering and seeding noxious plants.

BUDGET PROPOSAL 23/24

The Conservation Reserve Fund was originally voted upon to be funded by line item, which has never been done. For the upcoming budget, we requested that it be \$1000; for unknown reasons, Brian Story presented it as \$500.

MISC

- Do we need to blaze or paint trees to mark the Journey's End trail? Tree huggers didn't think so.
- The Planning Commission is working on the updated town plan. Lois told PC Chair Paul Warden that we're available to help.
- The December meeting isn't the same without the potluck.

ACTION LIST

- Noel and Dean will re-measure the Journey's End bridge for the supports and will buy the necessary lumber.
- Jackie will email Lisa Zinn to see if she'll take over the CBC
- Sue will bring a draft request form for the Land Management Plan to the next meeting.
- Dean will rework the Fairy Forest sign over the winter.
- Lois will look for a March Gladness venue.
- Sue will contact Jane Sorenson and the Backcountry Program.
- Denise will create or find a sheet that lays out flowering/seedhead times for roadside invasives.

Adjourned at 9:50. Said Lois, "We were really done at 8:30, but you three got off on another subject ..."

Next meeting is on January 10 at 6:30 at the Municipal Building.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, secretary.