

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2023

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

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Lois: regarding a note from the Planning Commission

Dean: re: revising materials for new bat houses

The March minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No updates.

McCUIN ISLAND

Noah Pollock, who was to have attended this meeting to discuss the River Conservancy's plans to plant shrubs on the island, cancelled. He sent an email explaining that he and a group of volunteers plan to plant 500 stems of willows in order to combat the growth of knotweed, which was sprayed last fall. He wonders would we help and what are our thoughts?

After much unhappy conversation, we agreed that this is our answer, which Lois will send:

- We wish we'd have been notified sooner.
- We're concerned about our rare plants and we'd like them to be roped off for their protection.
- We feel that the correct treatment practice should be a second spray on the knotweed before planting any new plants.
- We will not be able to help with labor.

POLLINATOR PROGRAM

Denise, Jackie, and perhaps Jared will meet with Bee the Change's Patrick Kitchen on April 15 to view the site of the proposed pollinator garden.

Denise has written a report to give to the selectboard on Monday, the 17th, along with a completed Land Management Plan. It was agreed that short and sweet should be the nature of that presentation.

Denise also spoke with American Meadows, who sells seeds and installations of pollinator projects. They offered donations of seed and/or live plants and help in expanding our garden. It was decided that we'll respond that we will look forward to working with them in the future. As for seed donations, we could give them to members of the public for their own gardens but we should have an educational session or two around growing seeds before we do that.

JCC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Dean and Jared are wondering about the twisting of the 4x4s used in the new bat house construction and how to avoid that in the future. They suggest laminating plywood or decking boards, figuring that would add 20 minutes to each project.

Peter offered to store the houses.

A work date will take place on Sunday, June 11, at 9:00 to install new bat houses. It'll start at the Arboretum with one house, then the Skatepark with two, then Beard's with two. All will be done on the same day.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The PC is working on the long range town plan. At their next meeting, on the same night as ours, they'll discuss natural resources. They'll email us the current plan and we can review it and make suggestions for any updates. We can attend their meeting if we like.

ASH TREATMENT

Sue isn't happy with Vermont Arborists' current policies and will look further.

BAT VIDEO

Lois and Sue have a script and will finesse it. Plans are a-poppin'. Stay tuned for new heights in video stardom.

MARCH GLADNESS WRAPUP

The snowshoe hike brought in 20 people; Pollinators brought 16; Backcountry was a very disappointing presentation and attracted a dismal 3; and INaturalist had 9.

Three outta 4 isn't too bad.

MISC

- Lois has applied for an AVCC Tiny Grant for funds to hire Elias Gillen to make a video about the Arboretum. She'll know whether it's successful at the end of the month.
- The Backcountry presentation would have been garbage if it'd had 100 people.

Adjourned at 8:15.

Next meeting is on May 11 at 6:30 at the Municipal Building.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary.