

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2023

The meeting began at 7:00, due to three members' tardiness, one of whom was not Peter, who shall be mentioned here since he wasn't mentioned elsewhere, though he was the recipient of an outpouring of sympathy, the resulting slight was unintended, but the serendipitous cause of much hilarity, at which the CC is so accomplished, among many other lofty things, which all led to an erudite and productive 7:00 meeting.

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

Absent: Jared Jasinski, Aurora River

There were no additions to the agenda.
The 11 May 2023 minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The budget report was not available.
\$473.13 has been spent on bat house materials.

POLLINATOR PATCH UPDATE

No action yet. Denise thinks tilling will be done during the third week of June.

WORK DAY PLAN

We'll meet to install the bat boxes on Sunday, June 11:00 at 9:00, at Beard's. We'll follow that with one installation at Wescom Rd and one at the Arboretum. Dean will have the materials delivered to Jared; Jared will assemble the posts at his place; Noel will deliver them to Beard's; Peter will leave the houses in front of his garage; Lois will pick them up.

MAINTENANCE

Peter and Dean have worked out a plan to switch off weed whacking the path at Beard's.

Also at Beard's, the road crew will drop a load of topsoil under and around the handicapped-accessible picnic table in order to raise the level of it. They'll add an I-beam and chain to anchor it as well. Dean will ask them to pick up the trash there, or Noel will pick it up.

The last post on the stairs needs to be replaced and Dean has a piece of 4x4 that could be used. We should have a walk-through to assess the rest of them and make a work plan. No date was set to do that.

ASH TREE TREATMENT

Sue has engaged Teacher's Tree Services to treat the ash at the Arboretum; five trees are slated to be treated.

BAT VIDEO

The costumes are in and the video is on track.

ECOLOGICALLY INFORMED MANAGEMENT PLAN

At the Arbor Day Conference, attendees Sue and Lois learned of various financing that will be available next year for urban forestry and natural resource planning.

Darren Schibler, who worked for the CC as a LANDS student and is now a regional planner with the Chittenden Planning Commission, participated in the conference. He has pointed Lois toward the Rubenstein School at UVM, who offers student internships that could produce a management plan, providing us with a beginning. They'd be available in the fall. The Gomo and the Talc properties need to be done.

VOLUNTEERS FROM STERLING COLLEGE

Sterling's Adrian Owens has asked to take his invasives class students to McCuin Island to work on knotweed. Lois suggested they avoid the island and offered them a tour of Beard's and bush-bashing (honeysuckle, that is) at the Arboretum, which they accepted.

TOWN PLAN RE: NATURAL RESOURCES

Lois sent the info we accrued to Meghan Rodier; it can be seen on pp. 19-34 in the Unified Plan. Noel had thoughts about the clarity of several basic facts in the policies section and he'll send those updates to Meghan as well.

MISC

- Yes indeedly, Peter did attend the Planning Commission meeting on May 10.
- Three CCers have stray lag bolts hanging around at home. Go figure.

Adjourned at 8:30

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary

The next meeting is on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 6:30 at the Library