

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2024

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

The January minutes were approved.
Peter added discussing connectivity to the agenda.

VERMONT CONSERVATION DESIGN

Noel is the brains on this one. He tells us that the state has plenty of money to spend on this state-founded endeavor of conserving 30% of Vermont's land by 2030 and 50% by 2050. 25% is already conserved. That includes state lands but doesn't include land in the Land Use Program, which may not be developed when enrolled in it but may be removed from Land Use and then developed.

The Conservation Design folks are developing a plan to reach these goals and want public input. There is presently a survey out for the public to identify their thoughts about conservation. That will be parsed in a zoom roundtable discussion on March 12 and another on March 19. You can register at vhcb.org/our programs.

We need to educate the public about the value of conservation. Ask the question what should we conserve and why. Willow Crossing would be a good start.

MARCH GLADNESS

We can use the library on the 16th in the afternoon, 17th, 23^d in the afternoon, and 24th. There will be an Historical Society program on the 24th.

Noel and Dean's snowshoe at Prindle on the 8th will be sponsored by the Library, who will provide snowshoes and do a flyer.

Sue will contact Jens Hilke about speaking about the Community Survey and Conservation Design on one of the other weekends. Peter and Denise will set up a pruning workshop, either in-person at Sue's apple tree or as a talk with pictures.

JCC LIST OF FUTURE HELPERS

Dean offered to compile a list. He's absent, so can present it next month.

JOURNEY'S END

The bridge railing is fixed. Yay!

CONNECTIVITY

Biofinder has a layer that shows conserved lands, making it easier to pinpoint areas that could augment connectivity. We should talk to landowners about conserving areas to create connectivity.

MISC:

- This was Denise's last meeting as a member. Lois presented her with a framed certificate thanking her for her service. No doubt we'll see her as a vol in the future.

- Jim McDowell, from the Studio Center, likes our bat houses and would like to add some at the Center. They're making changes for the environmental better, like adding a pollinator garden.
- Check out Nature RX on youtube. It's a hoot with a message.
- Sue presented the Universal Theory of White, which states that anything white, like the frosting on an apple fritter, is the lack of color and therefore weightless and, more to the point, calorie-less. This applies to all white, such as whipped cream, white chocolate, you get the idea. Science. Gotta love it.
- The apple fritters were outstanding.

Adjourned at 8:15

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary

Next meeting is on Thursday, March 14, at the temporary library at the Masonic Temple.