

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2024

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Peter Hammond, Dean Locke, Jackie Stanton
Absent: Jared Jasinski
Guest: Johna Keefe, Mollie Klepak, Gunnar Nurme

The March minutes were approved.

Additions to the agenda: tiny grant application, mowing at Beard's, rare plant survey.

Johna has expressed her wish to join us to the selectboard and we voted unanimously to recommend her appointment to the selectboard. We welcome her and her baking ability onboard.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There were no new expenditures. The bank balance was unavailable.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB PROPOSAL

Green Mountain Club's Mollie Klepak and Gunnar Nurme visited to request our support for their latest Johnson project.

The Paquin land, a 13-acre parcel on Plot Rd. that contains part of the Long Trail, is in the process of being acquired by the Green Mountain Club, who will conserve it and protect it with a state management plan. This will include a 500' corridor along the trail.

The parcel is one of the last pieces of un-conserved land along the Long Trail and the GMC has been tracking it for 40 years.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to write a letter of support and send it to the selectboard, with Noel recused. Mollie and Gunnar will bring this proposal to the May 6 selectboard meeting; we will also attend.

JOHNA'S WETLAND PROPOSAL

Johna proposes wetland installations and rain gardens to create greater flood resilience and stormwater retention in appropriate areas of town and presented a well-researched, informative piece that she created as part of a University class project. She plans to present a streamlined form of the report to the selectboard and ask for their approval of creating wetlands on public land in various areas. The CC is agreeable to this project and will support it.

Later this spring, Johna's environmental science class will also test the Lamoille's water in six locations for plastic particulates.

LIST OF POSSIBLE HELPERS

Dean doesn't have the email addresses he thought were attached to the community survey, but put forth a plan to create one. He'll pursue it.

VERMONT CONSERVATION DESIGN

Jens Hilke has agreed to give a talk on an evening in June or August. We'll ask him to do it as a regular meeting on June 13 or August 8 and will try to use the JES library as our space.

GOMO WORK DAY

It will go on, rain or shine. Noel, Dean, and Lois will cut brush, release apple trees, and stack brush.

MOWING AT BEARD'S

The town is asking for guidance. The plan remains unchanged: we'll mow the path and strips on either side but no other mowing should be done. Peter and Dean will switch off doing it over the summer.

POLLINATOR GARDEN

Turning and seeding is scheduled for late May or early June.

JOURNEY'S END, AUDUBON COLLECTION

No progress or update on these.

ECOLOGICALLY INFORMED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since our County Forester is perennially busy, we need a fallback way to make it happen. Ideally, we need a grant to pay a forester to do it. Noel pointed out that there is harvestable timber at Gomo that might pay for it. Drawbacks such as new roads were discussed as well.

RARE PLANT SURVEY UPDATE

We didn't get to it.

TINY GRANT

Lois has applied for the AVCC's tiny grant again this year. She suggested creating a partnership between the CC and the Tree Board and requested funding to produce an educational video that centers around tree planting and care, and the bat houses.

MISC

- Dean made a standout lemon blueberry cake with lemon drizzle that we could have happily eaten all night.

Adjourned at 8:40

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary

Next meeting is on May 9, 2024 at the Library in the Masonic Temple