

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Dean Locke, Peter Hammond, Adrian Schmidt, Jared Jasinski, Jackie Stanton (8:20)

Absent: Johna Keefe

The August minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No expenditures. No fiscal report for 2023, either.

VCD TALK

Jens Hilke will be the speaker for our presentation on October 3 at the Municipal Building on Vermont Conservation Design, a different form of development that includes conserving land. This will take the place of our regular meeting, which would have been on the 10th. Sue will advertise it on Front Porch Forum, etc.

JCC CONTACT LIST

It would be a good idea to include the email list from Reimagine Johnson. Dean will contact the organizers about handouts with a Q code and link that would collect contact info.

That meeting would also be a good place to do a survey.

GOMO TOWN FOREST

Noel knows the presumed property owners involved in the questionable boundary marking and will call them. Afterward, Peter will look into it.

Forester Mike Green, who's preparing to do an environmental report, has walked it but wonders about the boundaries. Possibly we can get them from the tax maps.

POLLINATOR GARDEN

Peter showed a picture taken today of cosmos in bloom, our first flowers! We guess Bee the Change seeded after all. The gardens do appear to be mostly grass. We can add seeds in late fall by removing shovelfuls of grass and adding wildflower seed.

JOURNEYS END

Adrian removed the firepit so well that its location is completely gone.

Ordering of bench anchors hasn't been done yet.

There remains the ongoing problem of keeping walkers on the path.

AUTUMN THROUGH WINTER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS= Instead of doing March Gladness, we'll change to presenting four monthly programs through the winter. Planned are a snowshoe hike at the Talc property on Saturday, January 11, 2025, meeting at the parking lot, prepared to bushwhack. Noel and Dean will lead.

Next will be snowshoeing at NVU Sunday, February 9, at 10:00, meeting at the parking lot near the mailboxes.

March is open. Any talking about wildlife is always a winner.

April will be a talk by Noel about birds and migration on Saturday April 26, 2025.

MISC

- Sue and Lois will have a display at Hyde Park Home Day about bats and bat housing.
- The CC is an advisory committee, so we're not required to record every meeting.
- Congrats to Adrian! Only his second meeting and he's already mastered acting up like the rest of us!
- Noel can't do the Christmas Bird Count but we could do the Great Backyard Count in February or do a Johnson Count of our own.
- Or we can do the Great Johnson Chimney Swift Stake-Out in the summer. Johnson's got CSs but no one knows where they nest.
- Chimney Swifts have heterodactyl feet. Eat insects galore. Super cool.
- Bobolinks need 20 acres to nest. No wonder they're in 80% decline.