

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Dean Locke, Peter Hammond, Adrian Schmidt

Absent: Jackie Stanton, Jared Jasinski, Johna Keefe

The October minutes were approved.

Added to the agenda: Noel requested a recap of the winter programs and a discussion about the ongoing lawsuit in Tunbridge about ownership of legal trails.

PROGRAM RECAP

. They are:

- January 11, 2015: snowshoe at Talc property, 10:00, Noel and Dean
- January 12: Ethan Tapper talk about 'How to Love a Forest', 2:00
- February 9: Snowshoe at NVU trails, 10:00
- March: still undecided
- April 26: Bird talk by Noel, info to be decided

BUDGET

There is no report this month.

VT CONSERVATION DESIGN

There was very little interest by the public in Jens' VCD talk last month or in March Gladness last year; why is that? After discussion, we decided that it's beyond time to advertise ourselves. Some folks don't even know we exist. We need to get what we do and how/why we do it to the public, starting with bi-weekly FPF posts about who we are and the interesting things we do and discuss. The first can be a summary of VCD and contain a link to Jens' video. Adrian offered to do that.

Adrian and Sue were the only ones to volunteer for this. Noel suggested we all do a post together during the meeting. If budgeting allows, we can produce a brochure that explains what we're doing as well.

GOMO TOWN FOREST

There is no news from Mike Green. There has been no progress on surveying Gomo; selectman Peter will ask to put it on the Selectboard's agenda.

POLLINATOR GARDENS

Nothings new has happened; Bee the Change has not made contact. No mowing has been done since June. We'll work on signage in the early spring and add seed/native plants then. Sue can give foxglove, poppies, and butterfly weed seeds.

CONTACT LIST

It's ready but Dean hasn't put it out yet. He will add a link to the JES Jag Journal that might target parents.

JOURNEY'S END

Dean has purchased earth anchors for the two new JE benches. He'll complete the bill and install the anchors before the ground freezes.

NEW BUSINESS

Reimagine Johnson's Recreation Economy Committee has asked JCC if someone would represent the CC on their committee. Lois attended a meeting but will not be a formal attendee. Adrian is interested.

Reimagine plans to come up with ideas that will connect town parcels with trails. They should be aware of the land Management form, among other concerns.

Reimagine's committee to coordinate the college and town has resulted in NVU reaching out to FPF about their activities, which is a positive development.

TUNBRIDGE LAWSUIT

It's a question of who has the right to maintain or own a legal trail across public or private property. NPR reports that this may go to the VT Supreme Court. Tunbridge is talking about throwing up class four roads so they won't have to maintain them.

This could apply to Gomo if it turns out that the town doesn't have maintenance responsibility. If so, we may have more latitude in working directly with the ATV club.

MISC:

- The County Forester districts have been changed to redistribute workloads. Wonder what will light a fire under Lamoille County?
- There is a healthy population of gray foxes hereabouts, though they're very elusive. They can climb trees and have thumbs, how swell is that?
- Some CCers know a Johnson cat who'd give his upper canines for thumbs.

Adjourned at 8:20

Next meeting is on Thursday, December 12, at the library at 6:30.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary