

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Dean Locke, Noel Dodge, Adrian Schmidt, Jared Jasinski
Absent: Peter Hammond, Jackie Stanton, Johna Keefe

A motion was made and passed to approve the January minutes. Who says we're not au fait?

The conversation was begun with a thank you for Noel and Dean for the successful snow shoe trek last Sunday.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The only expenditure was a \$50 annual renewal for AVCC, made by Lois. Our balance is 2800.89, which includes this fiscal years' town allocation of 1425.

Belonging to AVCC is beneficial for, among other things, the chance to apply for tiny grants. It was suggested that we could apply for materials to replace the Fairy Forest sign at Journey's End, but there was no vote.

CONSERVATION INFO FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

In January it was decided that we'd take turns posting bi-weekly, varied comments about what the CC does on Front Porch Forum. Jackie and Johna were to have done it before this meeting, but it wasn't done. Sue will take the next one within a few days and Jared will do the following in two weeks.

GOMO TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

There has been no response from Mike Green about creating a management plan, so we discussed talking to other foresters about doing it. Ethan Tapper and Fran Sladyk were mentioned. Lois will contact Mike and see if he wants to move on with what we need. If he doesn't, we'll move on. We all agree that moving forward is necessary. (Secretary's note: this meeting marks 5 years and 2 months since we discussed this subject with Emily Potter.)

We need the data from a management/resource plan, more than we need a direction. The age of the forest, basal area, and condition is important to inform us as to whether we even have a product to cut. We'll look for someone who is available to begin a survey onsite in spring or early summer.

Also, there is a range of outlooks among foresters according to their education and age. When we find a live one, we'll meet with and speak with her or him personally.

POLLINATOR GARDENS

There has been no followup about Pollinator Pathways' Denise Greene from Johna. Denise had expressed interest in visiting us at this meeting.

We decided to move forward to finish this job ourselves without Bee the Change and re-rototill the gardens this spring, get a bunch of people together, and then seed and plant them. Noel offered the use of his tractor if we can locate a flatbed with which to move it. Adrian knows the man who rototills the community gardens and he will attempt to ambush him and get him on board for us.

CONTACT LIST

Dean will post his contact survey in several local locations, with a link for signup and QR code attached. He'll send his list of names to Lois so she can add to it a list she has.

And Dean reviewed a draft brochure of one that will explain what we do and how we can help people. It's a nice design and we helped with text. Dean will look into Vistaprint and having it printed at the Municipal Building, while planning to have it available at Town Meeting.

Nice job, Dean!

WINTER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Coming up, Noel will talk about migratory birds on April 26 at 10:00 at the library. Stay tuned for details.

AUDUBON ADVENTURE

Since a massive snow storm is set to hit us on Sunday, when we're scheduled for the flea market, we decided to postpone it until the March 16 flea market, which will be the last one of the season. Everything is set to go: prints, a plan for moving them and setting them up, signage, and pricing. Sue will take care of re-registering for the new date, and get some signs printed at the Municipal Building.

JOHNSON'S COMMUNITY VALUES MEETS THE TALC MILL PROPERTY

The Village is talking about selling the Talc property and people have been talking about more trails. We have data from the Community Values survey. What can we do to point out what the data is regarding the Talc and how that would affect its' future?

MISC

- Lois gleefully pointed out that all those Audubon prints are now cluttering up Sue's guest room instead of hers, for a change. After 5 years, what are you doing with the extra space, Lois?
- Noel has a surfeit of acquaintances named Sue Wykoff. One of them confirmed that she intends to build a camp on the small piece of land adjoining Gomo whose boundaries we've been wondering about.
- We need to follow up with Peter about surveying the Gomo boundaries.
- VT Fish and Wildlife has reviewed the state's plan to riprap the Lamoille on Lendway Lane, which may hit a roadblock due to the presence of rare clams in the Lamoille at that location. A very rare bird, the Auger-Billed Clamsucker, has been sighted at the site dining on clams.
- May Pond, in Barton, is really cool.

Adjourned at 8:20.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary.

Next meeting at the library at 6:30 on March 13.