

JOHNSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 27, 2026

Present: Lois Frey, Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Peter Hammond, Adrian Schmidt, Dean Locke, Justin Hennard
Guest: Mollie Flanagan

The April minutes were approved.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB PROPOSAL

GMC's Mollie Flanagan presented the proposal for the Long Trail easement in the Gomo town forest that she wishes to take to the selectboard for approval:

- A 500' easement on each side of the Long Trail, centered on the trail. This is not an unusual request; 1000' is the standard easement used by the National Park Service.
- GMC will have right of first refusal in the event that Gomo is sold.
- GMC will cover all fees up to \$1000 to finalize the plan.
- There would be no timber cut in the first 200-400' of the buffer. Any cutting in the rest would require GMC's approval.
- GMC will donate \$5000 to the town to help cover the boundary survey that's needed at Gomo.

JCC unanimously voted in favor of this proposal and Mollie will move to present to the selectboard in mid-June.

This question was raised: this easement is intended to be perpetual. Can a future selectboard change it later? Peter will get an answer from Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

GOMO SURVEY

Peter has spoken with two surveyors. It's not known how much research one or both of them did around the history of the boundaries. It was suggested that we could not do the lines surveyed by the state, but Noel felt that the whole thing should be done.

POLLINATOR GARDENS

The final cost was \$1072, which was partly covered by the \$500 AVCC tiny grant. We had the remaining \$572 in our budget. The grant has been reported and is finished.

We have more seed and can spread it when the weather warms up. Having had a frost last week, that date is ephemeral for now.

There is a good deal of brush and branches on the ground around the plantings. Some evening soon, Justin will lead a crew of helpers to move it out of the way of walkers. He'll send an email so we can meet to help.

JOURNEYS END

Adrian reports that he blocked a hiker-created unsanctioned trail entry that had already become eroded. He suggests permanently blocking it.

Dean put the anchors on the benches. Starting this weekend, he'll start re-doing the Fairy Forest sign. He reports that the FF is well and respectfully used.

Carl Rogers arranged for 35 yards of the chips from the ongoing industrial park clearing to be given to the JCC and the Tree Board. We will spread 20 yards onto the trail at Journeys End and 15 yards will go to the Arboretum. They'll be piled at the town garage and transporting them to the work site will need to be worked out.

COLLEGE POND HANDS-ON LEARNING

The pre-event cleanup will take place on June 1; the main event on June 6. Eric Nuse and Discover Johnson developed a plan to have volunteers clear out invasives at the pond at NVU and invite families to learn about pond life and to learn to fish. JCC supports the event but does not plan to take a leading role in it.

JCC RESERVE FUND

Lois and Sue had a day and a half-long sale of our collection of prime donated merchandise and raised \$721 for the reserve fund. It was fun and a lot of work. Many thanks go to Justin for helping transport and set up and to Adrian and his sister for packing up and delivering all that clobber back home. Adrian also made a trip to Goodwill with some of the leftovers.

One lucky buyer walked away with the deal of the century: a brand new, still in the box, automatic toilet watering bowl (it can double as a planter, too!) for one buck. Some folks are just blessed.

We still have some nice things and will find ways to exchange them for more funds.

McCUIN ISLAND

At the July meeting, we'll set a date for a trip to the island to see what's happening.

OBSERVATIONS

Lois wins this one with a sighting of a bear in her compost bin holding a hot dog roll.

Peter saw brown thrashers. Noel says there are many of them here now.

Justin reported a 500 pound bear in Stowe and Sue had a raccoon dunk a hand in a can of paint and proceed to decorate the porch.

MISC

- The Merlin Bird ID app is free and informative. We should all have it.
- Noel brought banana donut muffins, which were unanimously declared to be health food.

Adjourned at 8:26.

Next meeting on Wednesday, June 24, at the library at 6:30.

Submitted by Sue Lovering, Secretary.