

Planning Commission Hosts Joint Meeting of Town Boards

Many of Dummerston's elected and appointed officials, as well as town employees, gathered on the evening of June 25th to fill each other in on the work being done by town boards and committees. The Planning Commission hosts this "all boards" meeting once a year because it is very helpful to our planning efforts to be aware of what everyone else is doing. This year, we were pleased to have representatives from the Recreation Board, the Housing Advisory Commission, and the Energy Committee join us for the first time. We also provided refreshments, after some gentle prodding from prior year attendees.

Representatives of the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, the Listers, the Conservation Commission, and the three groups listed above all gave updates about their work. Some highlights included: the ongoing efforts to deal with the parking and safety issues posed by the popularity of the West River/Rock River swimming areas; whether Town Road 65, which runs down to the Post Office from West Street, should become a one-way loop; the Selectboard's ancient roads identification project; how to lower our Common Level of Appraisal; the Habitat for Humanity house going in on Quarry Road; the Conservation Commission's vernal pool inventory that has identified more than 200 pools on the east side of Dummerston alone; the Recreation Board's receipt of a \$27,000 grant from ENVY to upgrade the playground at the school and build a storage shed/concession stand; the possibility of a wood chip heating system at the school; and addressing the hardships residents will likely face this winter as a result of energy costs. We also heard from Town Clerk Pam McFadden about the town's website (www.dummerston.org) and got a brief update from Alex Wilson on the status of the Southern Loop application currently before the Public Service Board.

As always, the evening was an excellent opportunity for cross-talk between folks who know a great deal about different, but overlapping, aspects of the town. It was inspiring to look around and contemplate the diversity of talent seated around the table. As Planning Commission Chair Steve Mindel noted in closing the meeting, we have a pretty amazing group of people working to keep Dummerston the special place we all know it to be.