

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Minutes
June 18, 2014

Members attending: Bill Schmidt, John Anderson, Ed Anthes, Bill Johnson, Mary Ellen Copeland

Also attending: Gurundham Khalsa

Minutes of May 8 meeting approved.

Trail Map project: donations are being committed for the map. Possibility of including a bike circuit was discussed.

First Detector Program- Betsy attended training for Asian Longhorn Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer detection. She has written an article for the Views on First Detector Program, visited KOA and Hidden Acres Campgrounds about dangers of transporting firewood from outside the area. Conservation Commission applauds Betsy for this work.

Friends of Black Mountain had good turnouts for two recent hikes on the new Nature Conservancy parcel in the bowl on Black Mountain.

West River Trail is working with Nature Conservancy to relocate the trail from the railroad right-of-way to under the power line right-of-way, to get farther from the houses on Quarry Rd/Rice Farm Rd. John was asked by Nature Conservancy to mark rare and unique plants, and has marked two areas. He will contact Peter Cooper of the West River Trail.

Rich Forest Site, near Newfane town line- John continues to monitor this site. It's a beautiful site, but very difficult to access. There will be a Conservation Commission hike to view this area July 21.

Vt Natural Resource Council has new resources to be investigated. Will check to see if some should be included on the DCC website.

Inventory update- John has identified another half dozen unique plants not catalogued before in Dummerston.

Educational Programs

Wildflower talk by John Anderson, July 14. Location TBA, probably at The Learning Collaborative.

Farm Tour- scheduled for Aug. 23, 10 am-4 pm.

Farms on the tour: Bunker, Scott, Miller, New Leaf CSA, Mountain Mowing, Walker, Elysian Hills. Some farms will have guided tours and educational programs. There will be wagon rides at Elysian Hills hourly. Followed by a Farmers Picnic at Bunker Farm, 4:30-6. Food supplied by the farms, served buffet style. The fee is yet to be determined.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Farmers Picnic.

Sponsors: Farmland Protection Committee, Transition Dummerston, Evening Star Grange, Conservation Commission

Deer Tick program September 10. Co-sponsored by DCC, Guilford CC, Putney CC, Marlboro CC.

Invasives workshop- Wild Chervil and Slender Cotton Grass are up and coming invasive plants. Black Swallowwort is very common along Rt 30, Rt 5, and I 91.

Fall Programs- end of August at Elysian Hills; Hemlock Wooley Adelgid experimental control; Beavers of Popple's Pond.

Invasives control on Putney Mountain with grazing goats has been extremely successful. Another session with the goats is planned for later this year.

Sightings: Northern Lights, fireflies, partridge family near Rt 30, lots of deer, loon nest at Sunset Lake was predated, porcupines on East West Rd, indigo bunting, cardinals, 15 inch bass caught in the West River, Canada geese family with goslings in CT River.