

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Minutes September 11, 2014

Members attending: Mary Ellen Copeland, Betsy Whitaker, Bill Johnson, John Andersen, Lynn Levine, Ed Anthes

Others attending: Carol Bissette, Don Hazelton

1. Agenda Review

2. Minutes: motion to approve minutes made by John Anderson, second by Bill Johnson. Approved, unanimously.

3. Community members time:

Don Hazelton discussed the history of public access to Prospect Hill. There is a 20 foot right-of-way that the Town of Dummerston owns. The path has been overgrown by buckthorn, with multiflora rose and bittersweet also in spots. Don brought a copy of the deed, which is attached.

Gary Hawkes is a forester who has been clearing invasives from land throughout Vermont. His company, Forest Savers, can uproot and shred large invasive infestations. He will be coming Sept 30 to the Conservation Commission workshop and will show the equipment he uses.

Lynn will get a quote from Hawkes to find out what the cost would be to clear the Prospect right-of-way and hilltop. We will find out how long his treatment would be expected to last, and what kind of annual maintenance would be necessary.

4. Finances

Additional expenses have come up. BCTV has billed us \$50 for annual membership. Additionally, each time a workshop is videoed, the camera person needs to be paid.

Mary Ellen will be contacting the Selectboard in regards to a fundraising letter for Conservation Commission programs.

5. Educational Programs

The Sept 30 workshop, **The Public Health Risk for Lyme Disease in a Complex Ecosystem**, will be held at The Learning Collaborative on Rt. 5. Jeff Ward, Chief Scientist with the CT Agricultural Experiment Station will present the workshop, beginning at 7 pm.

Publicity is underway. Co-sponsors include Conservation Commissions in Putney, Guilford, Marlboro, Brattleboro, and the Woodland Owners Association.

6. John Anderson has about 25 additional species he has found to add to the Dummerston Inventory. Betsy will enter the data.

7. Email outreach

The DCC has been contacted about citizen science projects and Betsy will follow up.

8. Farm Day Tour

Very Successful! About 130 people attended the dinner at Bunker Farm. The video is ready for final edit, and will be broadcast on BCTV, and available for viewing online.

Many people served as volunteers for the day, and a good number of people visited the seven farms participating throughout the day.

9. Other Educational Programs

Lynn Levine, Oct

Margaret Skinner, Nov

Patti Smith, Dec

Next meeting October 2, 2014. This is a change from our regular second Thursday meeting night.