

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: October 2, 2014

Members present: John Anderson, Ed Anthes, Mary Ellen Copeland, Bill Johnson, Lynn Levine, Jane Michaud,
Bill Schmidt, Betsy Whittaker

Guests: Don Hazelton, Bill McKim

1. *Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the September minutes as submitted.
2. *Community concerns*. Dummerston citizen Carol Morrison wrote the DCC with questions about excavation on Miller Road. Mary Ellen will write a letter of response. Muriel Taylor wrote to request information on an insect infestation on her property; Betsy will respond. These insects are “boogie woogie aphids,” AKA “beech blight aphids,” which are not considered invasive and are not known to kill the beech they infest.
3. *Prospect Hill*. Lynn will contact John Evans to arrange a walk up Prospect Hill with Gary Hawkes of Forest Savers LLC and Don Hazelton. Gary will be asked for an estimate to clear the invasive vegetation.
4. *Invasives*. Bill McKim has been clearing four sections along Rte. 5 of knotweed, barberry, buckthorn and bittersweet, once a month for several years. He will write a short article on this subject for the “Views” and send to Jane to include in the DCC newsletter. Lynn will write an article for the “Views” on the connection between invasives and the deer population, and the need to encourage deer hunting. It was suggested that once a month, starting in May, we sponsor an “invasives day,” when residents would be encouraged to clear invasive plants from their land. Teenagers might perform this work to meet a community service requirement.
5. *Fundraising*. Mary Ellen took members’ suggested revisions to her proposed fundraising letter and will revise for further review. The November appeal will indicate a \$3000 goal for two years’ public education programming. Mary Ellen also will write the Selectboard to request a stipend for the next fiscal year.
6. *Rain garden*. Mary Ellen will contact Steve Glabach regarding eradication of poison ivy, at the request of the Master Gardeners who oversee the garden.
7. *DCC website*. Betsy will remove from the website the request for donations for the town trail map.
8. *September 30th barberry program*. An estimated 90 people attended; the program was considered highly successful. Bill J. will order videos for the program sponsors and others.
9. *Upcoming meetings*
Nov. 1: Annual Conservation Summit, Montpelier
Nov. 20: Joint meeting of area conservation commissions, Guilford Church
10. *Upcoming programs*
Oct. 21: A New Way of Tracking, with Lynn Levine, The Learning Collaborative
Nov. 5: Porcupine program, with Patti Smith
Nov. 18: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid program, with Margaret Skinner
11. *Sightings*
Putney Mountain hawk watch: Hawk numbers are down this year, 201 Monarchs sighted. Golden eagle, bald eagle, rouged grouse, turkeys, skunk, foxes, coyote, turtles

Next meeting: November 13

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud