

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: November 4, 2014

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

Guest: John Evans

1. *Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the October minutes as submitted.
2. *Prospect Hill*. John Evans presented a proposal for clearing the overgrowth at the top of Prospect Hill, where pines and invasives such as buckthorn and honeysuckle are spreading. Members concurred that the price quoted by Forest Savers of \$4850 to cut and mulch the estimated 6 acres was reasonable. Chemical application will be necessary to contain resprouting. One concern needing to be resolved is access to the top, for both brush clearing and firefighting. Sap lines would need to be rerouted. Signage is needed at the trailhead. Next steps: John will send a packet of information to the Trustees, then arrange a presentation of the plan. This project would be scheduled for after snowmelt.
3. *Fundraising*. Ideas discussed to address the DCC's budget shortfall included wording, timing, and potential targets of appeals letters. Bill J. shared a draft of a proposed letter to "leadership" donors; Mary Ellen will revise her previously drafted letter. Bill S., with others, will identify potential donors. Mary Ellen will construct a formal DCC budget in advance of submitting a request from the town for FY2015. DCC members wanting to donate to the commission should send their check to the Town Treasurer, noted "for Dummerston Conservation Commission."
4. *Dutton Pines*. Bill J. will contact the state to request that the park signage remain up through winter.
5. *Past programs*. Bill J. distributed CDs of the September 30th barberry/Lyme disease program; he will give copies to the Dummerston School, Lydia Taft Pratt Library, and area CCs.
6. *Transplants*. John A. reported that the state has relocated two rare plants from the area of bridge construction to elsewhere on the West River Trail.
7. *Volunteer*. Jane will respond to a Brattleboro resident who offered to volunteer with the DCC.
8. *Upcoming meetings*
Nov. 13, 5:30: Joint meeting of area conservation commissions, Guilford Church. DCC members will carpool from the town offices at 5:10.
9. *Upcoming programs*
Nov. 18: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid presentation, with State Entomologist Margaret Skinner
10. *Sightings*
Putney Mountain hawk watch: est. 5500. Heron, Canada geese, golden eagles, Swainson's hawk, carpenter bee, gray and red foxes, coyotes, skunk, turkeys, deer, pileated woodpecker

Next meeting: December 11

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud