

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: December 11, 2014

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

1. *Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the November minutes as submitted.
2. *Tom Wessels course*. A motion was made and seconded to contract with Tom Wessels to present a four-week, eight-hour course on "Nature as a Model for Sustainability." Tom's agreed-upon fee is \$1200. The course will run Fridays, 10 am to 12 noon, from February 6th through February 27th, with possible snow days running into early March. It will take place at The Learning Collaborative. Participant cost will be \$15 per session or \$50 for all four weeks. Tom will not limit the number of participants, but pre-registration will be strongly advised. Jane will take registrations. BEEC will be asked to co-sponsor.
3. *Finances*. Mary Ellen presented DCC's current account statement, a budget for the remainder of FY '15, and budget proposals for FY'16 for discussion. DCC will initiate a fundraising campaign with a goal of \$4000 to cover a current shortfall as well as expected needs for FY'16 and '17. Mary Ellen will finalize an "optimum" budget to be included in a letter to prospective donors.
4. *Dutton Pines*. John will contact the town highway department re plowing the Dutton Pines pull-off.
5. *Website*. The DCC website will move to Wordpress within the month. Betsy will oversee the upgrade, which will provide more security and a more modern appearance.
6. *Solar installation*. Bill J. will obtain information about a proposed solar farm on Stickney Brook Road, approved by the Public Service Board, and it's effect on deer and other wildlife crossings.
7. *Town Meeting*. Mary Ellen will display Asian Longhorn Beetle materials supplied by Margaret Skinner, along with our panels on invasives.
8. *Sightings*
turkeys, siskins, bear claw marks, tracks of fox, coyote, and skunk

Next meeting: January 22

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud