

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: January 22, 2015

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

1. *Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the December minutes as submitted.
2. *Fundraising*. \$3,000 has been donated, with some pledges still to come. It was decided to wait until all donations have arrived before sending letters to the next list, likely in February. It was suggested that we make a general appeal to our email list, and that a survey be sent to donors to help us with future planning. The fundraising committee intends to meet again in a few weeks.
3. *Finances*. Mary Ellen asked for a volunteer to handle DCC finances; Lynn will consider.
4. *Tom Wessels course*. Bill S. will take flyers to post at OSHA classes. Ed, Mary Ellen, and Betsy will open up the Learning Collaborative at 9:30 the morning of the first session.
5. *Town Meeting*. Betsy will bring our invasives display as well as Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) materials from the state. She will have a large ALB poster produced. Mary Ellen will give an oral presentation about DCC.
6. *Regional CC gathering*. We will host the next joint meeting. Mary Ellen will contact the Dummerston Congregational Church to book a date in March.
7. *Legislative Day*. Mary Ellen announced the Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition's Legislative Day scheduled for February 12th at the Statehouse in Montpelier.
8. *Hemlock Woolly Adelgid*. John reported that this pest appears to be widespread in our area, but may not be spreading fast. Lynn will inform Jim Edson.
9. *Prospect Hill*. Debbie Brooks is reported to be considering allowing access on her land for machinery to clear overgrowth at the top.
10. *Black Mountain*. Betsy offered to help remove logs from cut branches that have fallen on spotted wintergreen on one of the trails. Lynn will contact Murray McHugh re barberry on the Stahl parcel.
11. *Forestry walk*. Ed plans to participate in a guided hike sponsored by the Windham Regional Woodlands Association in Guilford January 31st.
12. *Dutton Pines*. DCC will support a community potluck that Transition Dummerston is planning for June 26th.
13. *Wildflower inventory*. Betsy has updated John's flower list; Jane will add the new pages to the binder at the library.

14. Property transfers. Lynn will contact the Town Clerk re new property listings so DCC can offer conservation resource material as needed.
15. *DCC website*. Betsy is working with Daniel Hoviss on the website update; she reports that Daniel has provided a number of hours free of charge.
16. *Front Porch Forum*. Jane will post a notice of Tom Wessel's upcoming course on this community bulletin board.
17. *Dummerston Views*. Bill J. and Bill S. will write an article about maple sugaring as the first of an ongoing series around local agriculture. A local farm tour will not be repeated this summer; a "Maple Day" is planned for March 2016.
18. *Program suggestions*.
 - Native plants: Lynn will contact Cheryl Wilfong, and Mary Ellen will contact Ruth Marks.
 - Land management: Mary Ellen will contact Joan Weir.
 - Salamanders: Mary Ellen will ask Patti to present a program in the spring.
 - Managing lands for bird habitat, possibly with the Audubon Society.
 - Woodcocks: Bill S. will pursue a program to be held during mating season.
19. *Sightings*
 - red squirrels, gray squirrels, fox deer

Next meeting: February 12

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud