

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: February 12, 2015

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

1. *Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the January minutes as submitted.
2. *Finances*. Mary Ellen submitted a financial report through 2/9/15.
3. *Fundraising*. Bill J. submitted a fundraising report to date. DCC will continue its fundraising effort until the goal is reached. Bill will draft a brief fundraising letter for the DCC email list, to include a link to the DCC website. After committee approval, he will forward it to Jane to send out. The fundraising committee will meet after receiving responses to discuss next steps.
4. *Town Meeting*. Mary Ellen will mention past and future programs, ask for feedback and suggestions, and discuss the threat of Asian Longhorn Beetles as part of her DCC presentation. Betsy will display materials on invasives.
5. *Prospect Hill*. The biggest concern re the clearing of overgrowth at the top is access for machinery now and in successive years. Written permission would be required for access through the two possible routes. John will contact Steve Glabach, who manages sugaring on one of the properties with access.
6. *Trail maps*. Lynn will check on the availability of maps around town.
7. *Views*. Bill J. will collaborate with Transition Dummerston on an article featuring local CSAs, as part of their series on farms.
8. *Property transfers*. Lynn will contact the Town Clerk after Town Meeting for new listings.
9. *Hemlock Woolly Adelgid*. Lynn has informed Jim Edson about the local infestation.
10. *DCC website*. Betsy is working with Daniel Hoviss on the website update, which is expected to be completed by Town Meeting.
11. *Dutton Pines*. Bill J. reported that someone has been plowing the parking area.
12. *Putney Mountain*. John reported on last summer's goat and sheep grazing project to help with control of invasive plants.
13. *Regional CC gathering*. The next joint meeting of conservation commissions is scheduled for March 25th at the Dummerston Congregational Church. Jane will contact Pat Shields to request that she present information on Putney's wildlife connectivity/tracking program. The gathering will be featured in the next e-newsletter update.

14. *Upcoming program.* Patti Smith of BEEC will present a program on salamanders April 2nd, 7 pm at The Learning Collaborative.

15. *Program suggestions*

Series on geology: Roger Haydock and Richard Little suggested as presenters.

Invasive plants: recommended for every spring.

Native plants: Cheryl Wilfong has agreed to present a program, possibly in April.

Land management: Mary Ellen will contact Joan Weir. Piet Van Loon suggested as another speaker.

Managing lands for bird habitat: Bill S. will coordinate, possibly including a birding activity, collaborating with the Audubon Society. Richard Foye suggested as a speaker.

Sugar-making tour: planned for March 2016, possibly tying in with the Fire Department's annual sugar supper.

"Keeping Track": Lynn will contact Sue Morse about a possible tracking program.

Black Mountain: Lynn will contact TNC about a program or workday.

16. *Sightings*

Tracks of deer, gray and red fox, and porcupines; robins, mink

Next meeting: March 12

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud