

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Minutes

March 12, 2015

Members Attending: Bill Schmidt, Mary Ellen Copeland, Ed Anthes, Bill Johnson, John Andersen, Lynn Levine

Other in attendance: John Evans

1. Minutes of Feb Mtg:

John Andersen moved to accept the Minutes of the last meeting as submitted. Bill Johnson, second. Approved.

2. Finances:

\$710 raised, after expenses, from the Tom Wessell lecture series.

Donations this Fiscal Year are \$4448 as of 3/9/15.

3. Fundraising:

Approximately \$3900 has been raised through the fundraising campaign to meet Conservation Commission program needs for the next two years. Next phase of campaign will be started soon by the Fundraising Committee, sending out additional letters requesting donations. Approximately \$1400 is needed to meet the goal.

4. Commission members Bill Johnson and Dana Aquadro are serving terms that expire in 2015. Bill Johnson is submitting an application to the Select Board for another term. Discussion was held on other possible nominees to the Conservation Commission.

5. Discussion was held about fostering increased coordination with the many groups that are offering environmental education programs now.

6. An Emerald Ash Borer program, focusing on municipal responses, is being offered March 18, 9 am-12 noon, at the Newfane Fire & Rescue Station. Dummerston Conservation Commission has developed a plan, which has been shared with the Select Board and Road Foreman. This work will be shared with the meeting, as an example that other towns might adopt.

7. Prospect Hill

A proposal to expand the number of Public Trustees, who, along with the Select Board, are charged with the care of Prospect Hill.

2015 marks the 100th anniversary of Town Forests in Vermont. At least 168 towns have Town Forests. Prospect Hill is Dummerston's Town Forest.

The need to clear invasive plants to maintain the open hilltop was discussed.

8. Educational Programs

Managing Your Woods with Birds in Mind, a program of Audubon Vermont. Daylong program. We would look to possible co-sponsors include Windham Regional Woodlands Association, BEEC, WRC, Audubon, Nature Conservancy, and others. A date in May is preferred.

A program on fish is being scheduled for late May-early June.

Sue Morse, photographer, tracker and writer, offers a program, "Animals of the North: What will Global Climate Change Mean for Them." We will do outreach to other town groups, like hunters and snowmobilers. We will try to schedule her presentation for September 10.

9. Sightings:

skunks, raccoons, fisher tracks, coyote, turkey, red wing blackbirds, ravens about to sit on eggs, Carolina wren, robins, bluebirds, porcupine tracks, deer beds.