

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: April 8, 2015

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

1. *Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the March minutes as submitted.
2. *Finances*. Bill J. provided a fundraising update; we are nearing our goal.
3. *Survey*. Ed will tabulate results of the interest survey handed out at Tom Wessels' program.
4. *Commissioners*. Bill J. has been reappointed DCC commissioner. One other candidate is known to have submitted a letter of interest to the Selectboard for the remaining seat to be filled.
5. *Green-up Day*. Ed will contact Mark Brown for information on Green-up Day, planned for May 2nd.
6. *Prospect Hill*. Ed and Betsy have been appointed Prospect Hill trustees. They plan to join others on the committee to view the property to assess the need for clearing. Vehicular access is considered necessary to manage invasives at the site.
7. *Dutton Pines*. Bill J. has contacted Tim Morton about possible clean-up in advance of a plant swap/potluck event planned for May 29th in collaboration with Transition Dummerston.
8. *Rain garden*. Poison ivy and other weeds need to be eradicated; discussion to be continued in May.
9. *DCC website*. Betsy will contact Daniel Hoviss about adding maps to the site.
10. *"Views."* Bill J. is planning a series of agriculture-themed articles; possible subjects include local CSA's, berry production, and firewood resources. John A. will continue his quarterly articles on DCC activities.
11. *Forest management*. Bill S. shared a copy of "Landscape-based Forest Stewardship," published by the Windham Regional Commission (WRC), and will re-forward it electronically to the commissioners for discussion at the May CC meeting.
12. *Past programs*
Regional CC meeting. Representatives from six of the 12 Windham County towns with conservation commissions attended the March 25th gathering hosted by Dummerston. Among project reports were the Brattleboro CC's compilation of scenic views photos and the Putney CC's four-year animal tracking program. Brattleboro will host the next joint meeting.

Save the Salamanders. Additional volunteers are needed for the salamander crossing brigades; suggestions included involving elementary and high school science classes.

13. *Upcoming program.* “Managing Your Woods with Birds in Mind,” May 22nd, 9 am-3 pm, at Deer Run Farm, Camp Arden Rd. Bill S. has arranged for three presenters, secured several co-sponsors, and created an agenda. A suggested donation of \$10 was agreed upon. Jane will take registrations.

14. *Program suggestions*

Forest stewardship: Bill S. will coordinate a program with WRC, possibly next fall.

Native plants: Cheryl Wilfong has agreed to present a program this spring.

Fish: Ed will coordinate a program on the local fish population for late May/early June.

New England mammals. Lynn will coordinate an early September program with Susan Morse, which will be promoted to snowmobilers and hunters. Sue’s charge of \$350 was agreed to.

15. *Sightings*

Deer, turkeys, fox, skunk, raccoons, kinglets, phoebes, cowbirds, red-wings, flicker, robins

Next meeting: May 14

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud