

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: May 14, 2015

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

1. *Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the April minutes as submitted.
2. *New commissioner*. Jonathan Royce was welcomed to the DCC.
3. *Finances*. Jane reported an account balance of \$5,512.75 as of May 12. Bill J. reported a fundraising total of \$4,833.
4. *Forest stewardship*. Mary Ellen asked that we read the WRC publication, "Landscape Based Forest Stewardship." We will use it at our next meeting to inform a discussion of plans for next year. We may coordinate programming around the Brattleboro Museum's upcoming fall display on forestry.
5. *Outreach*. Betsy and Jane will add a request for programming suggestions to the DCC website and newsletter.
6. *Joint CC meeting*. The Brattleboro CC is scheduled to host the next joint gathering. Mary Ellen will contact them to remind.
7. *Invasive plants*. Garlic mustard: It is too late to manage now; we may plan a program around it next year, possibly involving school kids. Black swallow-wort: John reports sightings on Rte. 30 and Rte. 5 toward Putney.
8. *Asian longhorn beetle (ALB)*. Betsy will contact the Dummerston School re a presentation to students, and will send Jane information on ALB for the newsletter. A program at Green Mountain Camp was suggested as well. Betsy will contact Bob Everingham re an invasives display at Strolling of the Heifers.
9. *Emerald ash borer (EAB)*. Jonathan reported on an injection and a soil drench being used to thwart EAB, and will do further research on those preventatives. Lynn will send Jane information on identifying ash trees for inclusion in the newsletter.
10. *Prospect Hill*. Ed and Betsy, two of the trustees, report that the group hopes to have the top cleared this season. The job will soon be put out to bid. Lynn will send Ed a map of the area under consideration. Access continues to be an issue.
11. *Rain garden*. Mary Ellen will contact the Master Gardeners about maintenance; the poison ivy first needs to be eradicated.
12. *Wildlife crossing*. Bill J. plans to accompany Putney CC chair Ann Kerrey and Landmark biology professor Andrew Stein to a Canoe Brook culvert to assess whether game cameras might be installed to monitor wildlife crossings.
13. *West River Trail*. John will contact the Friends of the West River Trail re protection of rare plants as the Friends work to improve the trail.

14. *Website*. Lynn will ask Jeff Nugent to send map pdf's to Daniel Hoviss for the DCC website.

15. *Upcoming programs*.

“Managing Your Woods with Birds in Mind.” May 22nd, 9 am-3 pm, Deer Run Farm. 13 have registered to date. Bill S. is coordinating.

Dutton Pines Potluck Picnic and Garden Exchange. May 29th, 6 pm, Dutton Pines State Park. Bill J. is coordinating, in collaboration with Transition Dummerston. He will send around flyers.

The Effect of Climate Change on Mammals. September 10th, 7 pm, the Learning Collaborative. Lynn is coordinating. Speaker Susan Morse's contract was agreed to. Betsy will contact the Dummerston School re a loudspeaker system, and will notify the local snowmobile club.

16. *Sightings*

Red fox, Blackburnian warblers, brown thrasher, porcupines, spotted- and Jefferson salamanders, woodfrogs

Next meeting: June 11

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud