

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: June 11, 2015

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

1. *Minutes.* A motion was made and seconded to accept the May minutes as submitted.
2. *Community concerns.* Bill J. and Jonathan plan to join a Selectboard member on June 15th to view a proposed solar installation site on Stickney Brook Rd., in response to an email from a concerned citizen regarding tree removal there. Another resident requested the DCC look into a logging operation at the end of Camp Arden Rd.; the site was determined to be on private land.
3. *Finances.* Account balance as of June 11: \$5,626.83.
4. *Joint CC meeting.* Mary Ellen will contact the Brattleboro CC about the regional gathering planned for November 2015.
5. *Joint committees meeting.* Mary Ellen will contact the Selectboard regarding a meeting of the Selectboard with town committees.
6. *Invasive plants.* It was reported that a resident of Camp Arden Rd. has been eradicating invasives along the roadside. The Dublin, NH, CC reportedly offers to cut down Japanese knotweed on landowners' property, with the mandate that the owners continue to control it.
7. *Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).* Jonathan advised the monitoring of ash trees in surrounding towns, and that ash not be injected unless/until the EAB is detected there. Importation of firewood is considered to be the biggest cause of EAB migration. Jonathan will contact Bob Everingham and Jim Esden about actions regarding the pest.
8. *Prospect Hill.* Three companies have expressed interest in clearing invasives and other vegetation at the top. The job may go out to bid this month. Access continues to be an issue.
9. *Rain garden.* Mulch has been ordered; maintenance work is scheduled to begin.
10. *Rare plants.* John has found communities of lance-leaved violets and flowering dogwood, as well as a black gum tree and saplings in Dummerston. He has been in contact with state biologist Bob Popp.
11. *Past events.* The Dutton Pines picnic of May 29th was successful. Bill J. has donated a picnic table to the site. The Managing Woods for Birds program of May 22nd was well attended; film taken is being edited. Bill J. will take DVDs of past programs, as well as other conservation-related publications, to the Lydia Taft Pratt Library.
12. *Upcoming program.* The Effect of Climate Change on Mammals, with Susan Morse, September 10th, 7 pm, the Learning Collaborative. Lynn is coordinating. It was suggested that we purchase a mike; John A. will research.

13. *Future program planning.* Mary Ellen provided a list of DCC tasks from the Town Plan and requested that we look at the Natural Resources section of the Plan to generate ideas for future programming. Suggestions included vernal pool monitoring, a one-day conservation summit for regional CCs and the public, a maple festival, and a forest tour showing successive stages of tree harvesting operations. Lynn will research possible logged sites for continued discussion at the next DCC meeting.

14. *Sightings*
indigo bunting, turtle

Next meeting: July 9

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud