

## Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes: September 17, 2015

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

1. *Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the August minutes as submitted.
2. *Joint commissions meeting*. The next gathering of area conservation commissions will be held in November, date TBD.
3. *Prospect Hill*. Jonathan offered to clear the trail of several downed trees and lay a log over the marshy area, notifying abutting homeowners beforehand. Betsy will mark the trail and put it on the DCC website. Ed and Betsy will bring up the issue of signage at the next Trustees meeting; a cedar post was mentioned as a way to mark the deeded access point. It was suggested that school children be asked to update the trail guide. Betsy will write a letter of appreciation to Forest Savers for their successful clearing of the top of the hill.
4. *Black Mountain*. Jane will contact Murray McHugh about The Nature Conservancy's plans for trail improvements on their newly acquired parcel.
5. *West River Trail*. John A. has been communicating with Bob Popp about transferring rare plants in danger of being trampled.
6. *Dutton Pines*. Lynn reported that Cliff Adler has been pulling buckthorn at the state park, and has been in touch with Tim Morton about the invasives. Bill J. will write a request for toilet facilities there, for Cliff to pass on to Tim.
7. *The Views*. Bill J. may collaborate with Bill Schmidt on an article about local firewood producers.
8. *Grant funds*. Mary Ellen would like suggestions for DCC projects that might be funded with a Grow grant through the New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund (NEGEF).
9. *Conservation plan*. It was suggested that we research conservation plans created by other towns' CCs with respect to wildlife corridors. Bill J. will contact Landmark professor Andrew Stein about a possible connectivity study.
10. *Past programs*. The Dutton Pines Community Sing, held August 28<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with Transition Dummerston, was well attended, as was Sue Morse's September 10<sup>th</sup> Animals of the North program.
11. *Scheduled programs*
  - Clear the Invasives, September 29, 7 pm, the Learning Collaborative (DCC)
  - Shedding Light on the Working Forest, museum art exhibit, October 2-Jan. 3 (BMAC)
  - Water and the World, Osher lecture series, October 5-Nov. 9 (OLLI)
12. *Future planning*

Mammals, Patti Smith, November

Rare and unusual/threatened and endangered species, John Anderson, early December

Local biodiversity/four-week course, Bob Engels, February 22, 29, March 7, 14

Conserving Your Land, Joan Weir, 2016

13. *Putney Mountain hawk watch*. Mostly broadwings, 30 Monarch butterflies, some hummingbirds (probably migrants). Counts are reported to the VT Center for Eco Studies. The hawk watch now has a Facebook page.

14. *Sightings*

ruffed grouse, weasel, raccoons, woodcock, scarlet tanager, olive-sided flycatcher, black throated blue warbler

Next meeting: October 8

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud