

Meeting Minutes: Dummerston Conservation Commission

October 8, 2015, 7:20 pm

Hannah Cosman Room, Brattleboro Municipal Center

Members present: Ed Anthes, Mary Ellen Copeland, Jane Michaud, Bill Schmidt, Betsy Whittaker

1. *September Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as submitted.
2. *Financial report*. The DCC account has a current balance of \$6,026.55, with a \$60 donation outstanding.
3. *Request for donation*. The Southeastern VT Watershed Alliance has asked for a donation of \$220 from DCC. We decided to support their efforts to request funding from the town, but not to donate from our account. Mary Ellen will respond to their fundraising letter.
4. *BCTV*. In response to the community access station's request for comments in support of Comcast's contract renewal, Jane will write the Department of Public Service and the VT Public Service Board to advise them of BCTV's value to DCC outreach.
5. *Joint commissions meeting*. The Brattleboro Conservation Commission will host the next gathering of area conservation commissions on November 18, 6:30-8:30 pm, at 118 Elliot Street in Brattleboro. Mary Ellen will contact John Anderson re a possible introduction to rare and endangered plants at the meeting.
6. *Prospect Hill*. Ways to mark the deeded access to the town trail was discussed, in light of abutting landowners' concerns. Betsy will contact Jonathan Royce about helping to clear the trail and procuring a wooden post for the trailhead. Trail hikers will be encouraged to park at the town office; Betsy will put directions from the town office parking area to the trail on the DCC website.
7. *Dutton Pines*. Betsy has helped Cliff Adler clear buckthorn at the state park, and reports that Cliff has put 20+ hours into the project.
8. *The Views*. Bill S. has submitted an article on firewood from a personal perspective for the upcoming issue.
9. *Facebook*. Betsy may look into creating a Facebook page for DCC.
10. *OSHER*. A proposal was discussed to fund filming of the remaining OSHER programs on water, taking place at the Learning Collaborative, but decided against.
11. *Past programs*. Chris Polatin's September 29th program on invasives was well-received; several attendees signed up for further action. We will encourage landowners to work collectively on invasives control, as we continue public education efforts. It was suggested that Chris refine comments on landowners' use of chemical applications in future programming.

12. *Scheduled programs.*

Becoming Wolf: The Eastern Coyote in New England. We will co-sponsor this November 13th program with BEEC, providing half the expense and arranging for filming by BCTV. Jane will contact Patti about other publicity. It will take place at the Learning Collaborative at 7 pm.

Four-week course on biodiversity with Bob Engels. February 22, 29, March 7, 14. Discussion was held on specifics of the topic; Jane will solicit suggestions in the DCC newsletter.

13. *Future program ideas*

Rare and unusual/threatened and endangered species, with John Anderson, spring

Conserving Your Land, with Joan Weir, spring

Repeat of "Backyards with Birds in Mind

Raptors

14. *Sightings*

turkeys, flying squirrel

Next meeting: November 12

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud