

Meeting Minutes: Dummerston Conservation Commission

November 12, 2015, 7:00 pm

Dummerston Town Hall

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

Guest: Mike Campbell

1. *October Minutes*. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with the addition of time and location.
2. *Financial report*. The DCC account has an estimated balance of \$5776.55, with a \$46 donation outstanding.
3. *Community dialog*. Dummerston resident Mike Campbell inquired about signs posted at the West River Trail, and was asked to contact Jason Cooper of the Friends of the West River Trail for the information. Mike questioned the legitimacy of fencing and solar collectors on private property; it was suggested that he address the issue with the Planning Commission and Energy Committee. He asked about “current use” protocol -- Lynn explained the rules and enforcement policies, including the issue of forester licensing. “Hunting by permission” signs were discussed. Lynn offered to write an article about the signage for Dummerston Views, and Jane will include the information in the DCC newsletter.
4. *DCC Budget*. Mary Ellen will submit a budget request to the Selectboard by November 17.
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.
6. *Rare/endangered plants*. John is planning to survey a plot of land in Brookline for trifora, for the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife.
7. *Hawk Watch*. The Putney Mountain Hawk Watch has been reporting its findings to the VT Center for Eco Studies.
8. *Dutton Pines*. Bill S. will send Cliff Adler a thank you note for his work clearing invasives. Lynn reports that the state park has been well used.
9. *Prospect Hill*. A cedar post may be installed at the trailhead. The trail will be marked after clearing.
10. *Wildlife connectivity*. Jane will contact Patti Smith for information on wildlife monitoring. Some stretches on East West Road and on Black Mountain Road were suggested as possible tracking locations.

11. *Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge*. Ed will send us a link to a website providing opportunity for public comment on proposed land acquisitions. DCC will not take a position as a commission.

12. *Future programs*

Mary Ellen is in contact with Bob Engle re a spring series of four classes.

Mary Ellen will contact Chris Polatin about a possible spring program on invasive plants, part of which would be held outside.

13. *Sightings*

turkeys, partridge, deer, skunk, foxes, raccoons, robins, bear

Next meeting: December 10

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud