

Meeting Minutes: Dummerston Conservation Commission

December 10, 2015, 7:00 pm

Dummerston Town Hall

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

Guest: Gurudharm Khalsa

1. *November minutes.* A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as submitted.
2. *Financial report.* The DCC account has a balance of \$5822.71, with a \$100 invoice outstanding.
3. *Joint commissions meeting.* The November 18th gathering was well attended. John presented a slide show of rare/endangered plants. Putney CC will host the next regional meeting in March. The National Resources Conservation District will be invited to participate.
4. *Plant inventory.* John will continue to work with state botanist Bob Popp on monitoring trifora and other rare/endangered plants in Dummerston and nearby towns. John will research a wildflower resource book, which DCC may purchase.
5. *Act 64.* Gurudharm is asked to keep DCC informed of developments regarding the water quality act as it relates to Dummerston's waterways.
6. *Prospect Hill.* The landowner abutting the trailhead has agreed to clear buckthorn from the trail access. Ed will send him contact information for ForestSavers. Jonathan will clear the trail and upgrade the bridge; he will speak with the landowner about location of a post to mark the trailhead, which Betsy may supply. She and Lynn have offered to mark the trail after clearing. Bill will provide markers. The Dummerston School science teacher has expressed interest in creating a nature guide for the trail.
7. *Black Mountain.* Jane will contact The Nature Conservancy re trail construction on the newly acquired parcel. Invasives will be eradicated on the red cedar plot off Black Mountain Road.
8. *Invasives.* Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, as well as trees damaged by the pest, has been widely reported in the area.
9. *DCC website.* Betsy will post Lynn's article on posting land for hunting, and betv's schedule of DCC program showings.
10. *Dummerston Views.* John will include information on Bob Engels' four-week workshop in the next Views article; Jane will send Bob's write-up to John. Mary Lou Schmidt will submit an article on the clearing of invasives on Prospect Hill. Bill will write an article on a March 26th "Maple Day" if plans go forward for that event.
11. *Wildlife connectivity.* Betsy will contact Pat Shields re the Putney wildlife tracking report.

12. *Future program ideas*

Lynn will do a DCC-sponsored tracking program in January, date dependent on snow conditions.

Mary Ellen has spoken with Chris Polatin about a spring program on invasive plants.

Mary Ellen contacted Joan Weir about a program on conserved lands, possibly featuring a panel of residents with conservation easements. Bill will follow up.

Bill may coordinate a March 26th “Maple Day” sugar house tour, to include information on the Asian Longhorn Beetle.

Ed will look into a fish program for March/April.

13. *Scheduled programs*

Biological Communities with Bob Engel, 2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14. 10-12, The Learning Collaborative

14. Long-range planning. DCC members are asked to review “DCC Tasks” to inform discussion at the January meeting. Mary Ellen will send out this document, and contact Sam Farwell about upcoming revisions to the Town Plan.

15. *Sightings*

pileated woodpecker, common dandelions, skunks, possum, bear sign

Next meeting: January 14

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud