

## Meeting Minutes: Dummerston Conservation Commission

January 14, 2016, 7:00 pm

Dummerston Town Hall

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

1. *December minutes.* A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as submitted.
2. *Financial report.* The DCC account has a balance of \$5,507.00.
3. *Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).* Surrounding states have all detected the presence of EAB. Jonathan advises that communities within 100 miles of documented infestation take steps to mitigate damage. Imported firewood is considered the biggest threat. It costs less to treat an ash than to remove it, and systemic treatment lasts three years. Information on EAB will be published in the Views, on the DCC website, and in the DCC newsletter. Jonathan will speak about EAB at the Town Meeting, and Betsy will provide visuals to display.
4. *Prospect Hill.* Jonathan met with the landowner abutting the trailhead, who would prefer a trail marker be placed up the trail rather than at the road. The landowner was assured that a roadside post would be relocated if problems arose. Jonathan received a post from Betsy; he'll also work on a bridge in the spring.
5. *Black Mountain.* The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is preparing the required application to update the Act 250 permit that exists on the recently acquired property, and are preparing to submit a plan to the Development Review Board for improvements to the parking area at the new trailhead. TNC needs zoning approval and a curb cut permit. John has found a rare/endangered plant (*chamaecrista nictitans*) at the edge of the parking area; Jane will ask TNC steward Murray McHugh to contact Bob Popp about the need to protect the plant.
6. *Dutton Pines.* Bill J. and Betsy will clear a snowshoe trail through the state park when snow accumulation warrants it.
7. *Plant inventory.* John will contact the Association of VT Conservation Commissions with information about his inventory of rare/endangered plants.
8. *The Views.* Articles on Prospect Hill and Maple Day will be submitted for the upcoming issue.
9. *Joint Commissions meeting.* Mary Ellen will contact the Putney CC re the spring gathering.
10. *Town Plan.* Discussion was held on proposed additions/changes to the Natural Resources section of the Town Plan in advance of the upcoming revision, and will continue at the next DCC meeting. Bill J. is noting suggestions put forth and will act as liaison with the Planning Commission. Mary Ellen will ask Patti Smith to review the vernal pools section.

11. *Future program ideas*

Bill will coordinate a Maple Day sugarhouse tour for March 26 or April 4, to be co-sponsored with Transition Dummerston.

Mary Ellen has spoken with Chris Polatin about an April program on invasive plants.

Ed will look into a program on fish for the spring.

12. *Scheduled programs*

1/20: Conserving Your Land, Dummerston Congregational Church, 7 pm. Bill S. coordinating.

It is suggested that we personally invite landowners who might benefit.

2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14: Biological Communities with Bob Engel, 10 am-12n, The Learning Collaborative, Mary Ellen coordinating

13. *Sightings*

ruffed grouse, kingfisher, hairy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker

Next meeting: February 11.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud