

Meeting Minutes: Dummerston Conservation Commission

June 16, 2016, 7:00 pm

Dummerston Town Office

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

Guest: Sarah Berg

1. *May minutes.* A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as submitted.
2. *Financial statement.* The DCC account has a balance of \$5125.43.
3. *Town plan.* We reviewed pages 40-46. Sarah recorded suggested amendments. She will send these to DCC members and present them to the Planning Commission July 5th.
4. *Dummerston Views.* John will mention in his upcoming article that DCC is offering to advise landowners on control of invasive plants.
5. *VT Association of Conservation Commissions grant.* Lynn will use the \$600 grant to conduct a course on “The Art of Seeing” for fifth grade students.
6. *Regional meeting of CC’s.* Mary Ellen will check on arrangements for the fall gathering.
7. *DCC secretary.* A replacement will be needed for Jane, who plans to move out of state. Mary Ellen suggested a candidate and will follow up with that person.
8. *Tree pests.* Jonathan will research information on the spread and treatment of Emerald Ash Borer to present at the next DCC meeting. John reports extensive damage throughout Dummerston from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Other threats to hemlock trees could include Hemlock Elongated Scale and excessive heat.
9. *Prospect Hill.* Ed, Bill Johnson and Roger Haydock surveyed the trail and propose a loop that would include part of the snowmobile route. This plan will be presented to the Prospect Hill Trustees. The trail needs to be marked, raspberry bushes cut back, and some rerouting done to avoid eroded areas. It was decided that steps are not needed at this time.
Jonathan and his crew constructed a bridge over a muddy section, with lumber donated by Bill Johnson. They erected a trail sign visible from the road. Jonathan plans to build a ramp to the bridge with wood chips and large rocks, and suggested mowing a path through the field for easier access. He proposed a town hike to acquaint residents with the trail, possibly before one of the summer Grange suppers. Mary Ellen will check on possible dates.
10. *West River Trail.* John plans to organize a walk on the trail to note the location of rare/endangered plants needing protection.

11. *Black Mountain*. Nature Conservancy (TNC) trustee Lester Humphreys will soon be timed out of that position. He has reported that TNC is working on permitting trail work on the recently acquired parcel. Work is expected to be completed by fall, when TNC will organize a public celebration. A hiker has noted a missing trail marker on the original trail from the Rice Farm Rd. kiosk; Jane will check on it.
12. *Dutton Pines*. Mary Ellen contacted Tim Morton re installation of picnic tables and portable toilets at the state park, and was told that the state lacked the funds to provide them. Jonathan will ask his father, a carpenter, to build a bench for the park.
13. *Rain garden*. Mary Ellen will check the garden for poison ivy.
14. *Engaging VT Woodland Owners Through Wildlife*. Bill will attend this June 23rd program in Grafton and report back at the next DCC meeting.
15. *Program ideas*
 - Invasives control for the fall
 - Forest ecology
 - Multi-week course with multiple presenters for winter
16. *Upcoming program*. DCC and Transition Dummerston will co-sponsor the third annual community picnic at Dutton Pines State Park on Friday, June 24th, 6 pm-dusk. Bill Johnson is coordinating.
17. *Sightings*
 - ruffed grouse, red fox, gray fox, skunks, raccoons, ravens, loons, black vulture, big brown bats

Next meeting: July 14

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Michaud