

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2016

Members attending: Bill Johnson, Bill Schmidt, Lynn Levine, Jonathan Royce, Ed Anthes, Mary Ellen Copeland, John Anderson

1. Minutes of the October meeting were approved. Moved by Bill S, seconded by Ed A. Approved unanimously.
2. Finances- Two additions were noted: Rotary of Brattleboro donated \$100; Vt Community Foundation contributed \$350 for conservation education in the Dummerston School. Cash on Hand as of 10/31/16: \$6326.
3. Soils of Dummerston meeting: excellent turnout, over fifty people attended. Good balance of presenters, John Warren, geologist; Drew Adam, soil scientist; Jack Manix, farmer.
4. It was reported that the 2006 soil report, noted at the Town Plan Forum, is an expansion of the 1987 Soil Survey of Windham County. The 2006 report designated an additional two soils as prime agricultural soils, and one additional soil of statewide significance. No soils listed as prime or of statewide significance in the earlier version, used in Dummerston's LESA study, were removed from the list.
5. There will be talks on Wolves and Coyotes by Chis Schadler on Wednesday, Dec 14. One event will be at 7 pm at The Learning Collaborative, and a second will be in the afternoon for seventh and eight graders. This is part of the Conservation Commission's plan to increase opportunities for Dummerston School students and staff to access our educational programs. Additionally, Lynn will be leading The Art of Seeing at Dummerston School, once a month for four months. The Commission is also working with Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center to foster science education at the school.
6. Semi-annual Regional Meeting of Conservation Commissions: Nov.17 in Guilford at 5:30 pm.
7. Correspondence from Jim Esden about Hemlock Wooley Adelgid monitoring. He requested two volunteers for a study of an impact plot on Nature Conservancy land at Black Mountain. Jonathan and Lynn volunteered.
8. Hawk Watch on Putney Mtn ends tomorrow. Final count: in excess of 9,500 migrating birds counted and identified this year. John was very pleased to have excellent trained, responsible people participating.
9. Winter Educational Series: four Wednesday mornings in Feb-March. Topic: Geology, forests, wildlife and pollinators of Dummerston, past present and future.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes