

Minutes March 9, 2017
Dummerston Conservation Commission

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

Minutes of the February meeting were accepted as written. Moved by John Anderson, second by Betsy Whitaker.

The Past, Present and Future of Windham County Series was well attended and generated \$1,056 for future educational programs.

Trees and Tracking, with Lynn Levine, was well received. Thirteen people attended the course on Black Mountain.

Bill Schmidt will contact Fish & Wildlife for a biologist, to come to speak on what landowners can do to encourage wildlife on their properties.

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center program in Dummerston School is underway.

The Conservation Commission will host the Regional Conservation Commissions Meeting at Dummerston Church, March 16, potluck at 6, meeting to follow.

Upcoming programs:

March 24 Transition Dummerston will host a farm program to include: Foods for Local Consumption; Today's Farmers as Custodians for the Future. Potluck at 6, program at 7.

Astronomy program with Claudio Veliz, March 28, 7pm, at the Learning Collaborative.

April 7, In the Woods with Children, with Lynn Levine.

Deb Luskin, Hiking the Long Trail, May 4 at the Learning Collaborative.

Wetland Plants workshop with Patti Smith will be in May or June.

Dutton Pines, June 25. Walk at 5:30 pm. The Commission will provide dessert and there will be music.

Steve Long will present on the Hurricane of '38 on Aug 24.

In September staff from Harvard Forest will present on The State of the New England Forest.

David Dean, is possible speaker for October. Bill Johnson will check that out.

Prospect: The Conservation Commission will lead a series of hikes and explorations on Prospect this year. The first Hike up Prospect will be May 13, 10 am. Park in Dummerston Center.

On July 17, the American Forestry Foundation, which is funding the production of the Trail Guide being prepared by the 5th graders from Dummerston School, will visit Prospect.

Bill Johnson moved that The Conservation Commission will purchase up to \$200 in books for the School Library and the Lydia Pratt Taft Library, after consulting with the librarians. Seconded by Betsy. All approved.

Black Mountain: a concern was raised with a Commission member about trash and broken glass at the swimming area on the West River. Betsy will contact the Nature Conservancy about the issues.

Marie Caduto, Watershed Coordinator, will attend the next Conservation Commission meeting April 13 to talk about Dummerston stream water quality.

Sightings: Grackles at Putney Paper, deer crossing East West Rd, robins flocking by the scores, Red Wing blackbirds, geese in the cornfields, porcupines, turkey vultures, 80 turkeys and a bobcat on Green Mountain Camp Rd.