

## Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes 9/14/17

Members attending: Mary Ellen Copeland, John Anderson, Lynn Levine, Ed Anthes, ,  
Judy Fink, Bill Johnson

1. Minutes for the meeting of August 10, 2017, were approved as submitted. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Lynn Levine. Unanimous.
2. The \$750 2017-18 contribution from the Town has been transferred into the Conservation Commission account.
3. Staying Connected, a program about wildlife connections in Massachusetts and Vermont will be held in Wilmington on Sept. 19, 6:30-8:30 at the Wilmington Town Office.
4. Mary Ellen will write the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions, requesting that the next annual meeting be held in Southern Vermont. They have mostly been held in the North. This year's is in Starksboro on Sept 23.
5. The Proposed Conservation Commission Plan for 2017-18 year was discussed, including upcoming educational programs for the year.
6. Educational Programs

October 12- State Archeologist Jess Robinson. The Historical Society will be asked to co-sponsor this event. *The monthly business meeting of the Conservation Commission will be moved to the Tuesday, October 10, to accommodate this program.*

October 24 or 26- Effects of Deer in the Forest, with George Weir and Lynn Levine

November- Beavers, with Skip Lisle and Patti Smith

January- Trees and Tracking, with Lynn Levine

February Series-

4 Mornings: What we need to know and do to protect our local environment in a time of climate change. Judy Fink and Mary Ellen Copeland will be responsible for setting up this series. Possible speakers and programs:

Stephan Long- the Effects of Big Storms on the Forests

Mark Breen- Predicting the Weather

Tom Wessells- Reading the Forested Landscape

Vern Grubinger- Agricultural Effects

March- Birds and Habitats, Report on the status of New England  
Forest with Harvard Forests  
May: Spring Flowers with John Anderson

7. Deer browse of saplings and young trees is hindering regeneration of hardwoods in Dummerston and throughout the region. A film about this problem is being developed, and Lynn requested financial support for the film.

A motion was made by John Anderson to contribute \$75 to the making of this educational film. Judy Fink seconded. Approved unanimously.

8. A potential invasive plant, Wall Lettuce, has been seen on Nourse Hollow Rd. It was first seen in Brattleboro in 1979. It is shade tolerant, and survives in the understory. Watchful waiting is advised.
9. Rain Garden near the Covered Bridge- the Master Gardeners who care for the Rain Garden reported that the sign needs repair or replacement. John will investigate and report back.
10. 121 additional species of flowering plants have been found by John Anderson and will be added to the Dummerston Biodiversity Inventory, which now totals about 721 species in Dummerston.
11. Dummerston School grants- DCC received a grant of \$1,000 to teach students observation skills in nature in 2016 thru the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. American Forest Foundation program "Woods, Wildlife and Warblers" contributed to the Prospect Trail guide project in 2017, and have pledged \$1,000 for 2018.

BEEC and Conservation Commission work in the local school is beginning for the year.

12. Sightings: Putney Mountain Hawkwatch has sighted 60 Bald Eagles so far this year. Very big black bear at Sunset Lake Rd, wood frogs on hill tops, lone peepers, porcupine, Canada geese, nighthawks in Bellows Falls, bear cubs, snapping turtle headed uphill from West River
13. Next meeting: Tuesday, October 10 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Anthes