

## Dummerston Conservation Commission

### Meeting Minutes 12/14/17

Members attending: Mary Ellen Copeland, John Andersen, Ed Anthes, Lynn Levine, Betsy Whitaker, Bill Schmidt, Judy Fink

Other attendee: Patti Smith

1. Minutes for the meeting of November 9, 2017, were approved as submitted. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Betsy Whitaker. Unanimous.

2. Educational Programs

Past meetings:

November- Beavers, with Skip Lisle and Patti Smith. About 30 people attended. The program is up on BCTV and on the commission's website. December- Birds at Your Feeders, with Ned Pokras and photos by Chris Petrak. About 20 people attended, on a very bad weather night. This program also on BCTV and the commission's website. .

Upcoming programs:

January - Trees and Tracking, in the woods with Lynn Levine

January 24, 10-12 am. "Ties to the Land". Mary Siscock will speak on "Land Ownership Succession Planning".

February Series-

4 Wednesday Mornings, 10-12 am: What we need to know and do to protect our local environment in a time of climate change.

Feb 7, Mark Breen will speak on major weather events and changing weather patterns. Feb 14, Vern Grubinger will present on Changing Weather and Agriculture. Feb 21, Todd Menees will speak on how weather changes the land and waterways. Feb 28, to be determined.

The proposed bear program will not be held in March as Putney Mt. is having that program in January.

April-Program from Dept. of Forest and Parks on managing your land for wildlife.

May- Wildflowers with John Anderson

June- Planting for Pollinators

3. The Regional Conservation Commissions Meeting was held November 29, 6 pm. Next meeting will be sponsored by Putney Conservation Commission. Judy, Betsy and John who attended from our commission have asked for input on the format of future meetings. Mary Ellen will contact Ann Kerry to share their concerns. The next regional meeting will be held in March.

4. Town Meeting is March 6. We hope to have the short video available to show the effects of deer on our forests.

5. Biodiversity Inventory Report Update with Patti Smith- Patti Smith, from Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, undertook the biodiversity project nearly ten years ago. A discussion was held about updating the report to address changes since 2009, add new information, and to decide if further study is indicated for particular areas. Commissioners agreed to review the document and suggest additions and changes including adding information that John Anderson and others have found since 2009 on rare, endangered plants and important natural communities.

6. Sightings: fox, deer, coyote tracks; flicker and yellow-bellied sapsuckers at feeders; juncos, mourning doves.

7. Next meeting: Thursday, January 11 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Anthes