

## Dummerston Conservation Commission

### Meeting Minutes 3/8/18

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

Also attending: Joan Weir, Vermont Land Trust

1. Joan Weir spoke to the Commission about the work of the Vermont Land Trust, and the standards it uses to identify lands worthy of conservation. These include parcels with outstanding features such as streams, significant agricultural soils, trails, managed forests, or significant historic and natural features. Currently, 1,767 acres are protected in Dummerston with VLT conservation easements. 5 farms are conserved: Moore Farm field, Full Plate Farm, Bunker Farm, Sweet Tree Farm, and Elysian Hills. In addition, 10 forested areas are under conservation easement.
2. Minutes for the meeting of February 8, 2018, were approved as submitted. Moved by Lynn Levine, seconded by Bill Johnson. Unanimous.
3. John Andersen moved that expenditures of \$100 or less may be drawn from the Discretionary Fund by the chair for authorized programs without prior approval of the Commission. The Discretionary Fund balance will be \$200. Each expenditure will be reported at the next Commission meeting. Second by Lynn Levine. Approved, unanimous.
4. Website- the webmaster recommended that critical security updates be made to DummerstonConservation.com, the Conservation Commission website. Bill Schmidt moved the Commission spend \$252 as recommended by Betsy Whitaker. Bill Johnson seconded. Approved, unanimous.
5. Educational Programs

#### February Series-

A letter was received from the Dummerston School Sixth Grade class reporting on their attendance at Mark Breen's weather program. This series was very successful.

April 10- VT Fish and Wildlife will present on Creating Habitat for a variety of species, from butterflies to birds to brook trout.

Arbor Day program- Lynn will coordinate this with other Conservation Commissions, to be held at the Brattleboro Art Museum.

May 24- Wildflowers with John Anderson.

June- Planting for Pollinators. With Tom Sullivan. Co-sponsored with Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC)

June- Ferns with Lynn Levine

5. Regional Conservation Commission semi-annual meeting will be held March 21 in Putney at the Fire Station.

6. Town Meeting. The display about deer browsing our forests was well received. The trifold cost \$130.00 and was well worth it. It can be used at other meetings.

7. Sightings: 22 deer in a field off Camp Arden Rd, red wing black bird on West River Trail, tree sparrow, white-throated sparrow, bobcat, chipmunks, grey fox, red fox.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 12 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Anthes