

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes 5/10/18

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

Others attending: David Greenwalt, Chris ?????

1. Minutes for the meeting of April 12, 2018, were approved as submitted. Moved by Lynn Levine, seconded by Judy Fink. Unanimous.
2. Fish & Wildlife has acknowledged recently that the deer density in our area is excessive. They have seen that deer in VT are smaller than in other states. They plan to increase the permits for antlerless deer for muzzle loader and archery seasons.
3. Town Plan- the Conservation Commission is tasked in the Town Plan with examining the need for a Ridgeline overlay. Many factors affect this, including viewshed analysis, elevation, visibility, habitat and soils impact, slope and others. Dummerston resident David Greenwalt will work the Conservation Commission to identify these issues and actions taken in other towns.

****biodiversity book to David.

4. Educational Programs

May 12- Planting for Pollinators. With Tom Sullivan. Co-sponsored with Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC). At Deer Ridge Farm. BCTV will be contacted to film.

May 24- Wildflowers with John Anderson, at Dummerston Church, 7 pm.

June- Ferns with Lynn Levine

Summer Walks- Dummerston Cares suggested that there be walks held on the Trails of Dummerston. We will look for hike leaders.

October- VT State Archeologist, cosponsored with Dummerston Historical Society.

5. DCC will contribute \$25 toward the videotaping of "Before It's Too Late: Conserving NE's Forest and Farmlands" by Dr. Spencer Meyer of the Highstead Foundation at Next Stage, Kimball Hall in Putney on Sunday June 10 from 3-5 pm. Moved by Lynn Levine, second by Ed Anthes.

6. Tiny Grant- The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions has awarded the Dummerston Conservation Commission \$300 for the project of developing a local online "bulletin board" for wildlife and conservation events. DCC is working with BEEC on this project. Additional grants will be pursued.
7. Prospect Pasture- on June 29, at 9am Jonathan Royce will lead a crew to clear fallen trees and invasive brush from the pasture. Volunteers are welcome. Contact Bill Schmidt, elysian2@svcable.net
8. West River Trail- John Anderson, Ed Anthes and Mary Ellen Copeland met with a group to identify vulnerable and fragile areas before work begins for the year. Orange grass, spotted wintergreen and winterberry, all rare and threatened, were identified.
9. Dutton Pines- several trees came down in recent storms. Parks and Rec. have been notified and will be removing them.
10. Hemlock Wooley Adelgid- spread of this invasive insect has been limited by early, low winter temperatures this past year.
11. Scott Farm is working to build a trail from SIT, and considering another trail through the woods and orchard.
12. Sightings: beavers near Dummerston Landing; frogs and salamanders; warblers: blackburnian, black throated green, black throated blue, yellow rumped, yellow; hummingbirds; tree swallows; rose breasted grosbeaks; barn swallows; juncos; cardinals; ticks!

Next meeting: Thursday, June 14 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Anthes