

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes 8/9/18

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

1. Minutes for the meeting of July 12, 2018, were approved as submitted. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Lynn Levine. Unanimous.
2. A discussion of possible funding sources and grants was held. The Chair will follow up on this.
3. For the last four years, the Conservation Commission has sponsored a series of workshops in February. Ideas were shared on speakers and locations for 2019. Discussion to be continued at next meeting.
4. A committee was formed to set up a series of workshops on forestry and logging issues, with Chris Olsen and Judy Fink.
5. Educational Programs
 - August 15: Twilight Walk at Elyssian Hills, 6 pm. Rain date August 16.
 - Sept 15: Putney Mountain Hawk Watch 10-3 with John Andersen. (Rain date Sept 16)
 - Mary Ellen will contact Kelly Price about doing a late summer Monarch program.
 - October: VT State Archeologist, co-sponsored with Dummerston Historical Society.
 - Other programs being planned:
 - Judy talked about planning a program with Scott Farm to go on a trail walk on a newly formed trail at Scott Farm. Chris will talk with Zeke and Kelly about scheduling this during the fall.
 - Lynn suggested at vernal pools workshop in the spring.
 - A spring walk and talk at Black Mountain/exploration of species was suggested.
6. Regional Conservation Commission Meeting: Dummerston will host the semi-annual meeting November 15 in the Dummerston Church. Potluck at 6, meeting from 7-8:30. The focus will be in issues raised in advance by specific groups.
7. The Prospect Pasture Invasives removal workday will be Sept 22 – Bill Schmidt feels that a core group of 3-4 people will be needed to do the work.
8. Ridgeline Overlay Initiative – the Town Plan gives the Conservation Commission a directive regarding ridgelines in Dummerston.

"Identify town ridgelines, and prepare descriptions of ridgeline attributes to facilitate decision-making about ridgeline development". Policy 1.3 b, p. 45.

- Discussion will continue at the September meeting on whether we want to move forward with this project and, if so, how we want to do it.
9. John and Bob Popp walked the 20 acres of the river cobble along the West River Trail and identified and marked at least 6 species that will need to be protected when the West River Trail committee removes invasive plants there.
 10. Deer Run Nature Preserve – the neighborhood committee is continuing to work with Joan Weir from Vermont Land Trust.
 11. Representatives from regional conservation, environmental and planning groups will meet next week to explore a Regional Conservation Partnership as a means to conserve land together more efficiently.
 12. Bill Schmidt reported on the Dummerston Missing Link Trail Project that Carolyn Mayo Brown is working on, connecting the Windmill Hill-Putney Mt Ridgeline Trail to Prospect Hill and Black Mountain.
 13. In the light of recent findings of Emerald Ash Borer in other Vermont counties, Bill Schmidt reminded commissioners to revisit the study done several years ago which mapped ash trees along Dummerston's major roads. This study was shared with the Selectboard and Road Foreman at that time but they may need to be reminded of this work.
 14. Rain garden issues have been taken care of by the Master Gardeners.
 15. Sightings: monarch butterflies and caterpillars, coyotes, Great Blue Herons, large garter snake.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 13 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Anthes