

## Dummerston Conservation Commission

### Meeting Minutes 11/8/18

Members attending: Bill Schmidt, John Anderson, Mary Ellen Copeland, Ed Anthes, Chris Olsen, Bill Johnson, Lynn Levine, Betsy Whittaker

1. Minutes for the meeting of October 11, 2018, were approved as submitted. Moved by Betsy Whittaker, seconded by John Anderson. Unanimous.

2. Educational Programs

October 23: VT State Archeologist Jess Robinson, co-sponsored with Dummerston Historical Society, was very well attended.

Other programs scheduled:

December 12- Basics of Forestry Plans and Logging Operations, with Sam Schneski, Windham County Forester. Dummerston Evening Star Grange 7 pm

January 26- Tracking workshop with Lynn Levine. 1-3:30 pm

February- 4 morning workshops on conservation genetics

Possible speakers/topics

Tanya Lama, MA Fish & Wildlife, on Canada Lynx

Conservation Genomics and the Leatherback Turtle

Warren Johnson, Feline Species

March 26-David Sobel, Antioch educator and writer on children in nature.

Kelly Price will speak on Monarch Butterflies in the Spring.

Scott Farm: new trails.

Poison Plants: Hogweed, Pigweed, Parsnip, Poison Ivy and other Irritants

3. 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 on issues raised in advance by specific groups, including knotweed and wild parsnip control.
4. DummerstonConservation.com, our website, was reviewed. New photos are up of the Elysian Hills walk. Maps and trail guides were noted.
5. Dummerston Cares would like to cosponsor hikes with the Conservation Commission. Several people have volunteered to lead hikes. Bill Schmidt moved that the Conservation Commission undertake this collaboration. Seconded by Lynn Levine. Approved, unanimous.
6. Ridgeline project: the Town Plan calls for the Conservation Commission to consider ridgeline conservation and make recommendations. This is a long-term project to identify townspeople's concerns. At a future meeting, Windham Regional Commission will be asked to share their experience in other county towns.
7. Stairs at the Covered Bridge- Following up on a report from a concerned citizen, Chris Olsen investigated and reported on erosion alongside the stairs,

- and that the bottom few steps need to be reset. Chris will oversee this project.
8. Deer Run Nature Preserve, a land conservation project in northwest Dummerston, East Newfane, and Brookline, will hold an informational meeting at the West Dummerston Community Center, Dec. 6, at 7 pm.
  9. Sightings: bald eagle over the VELCO power line; six point buck; turkeys; snakes headed for hibernation in woodpiles, chipmunk holes and under stone walls; moles clearing their deep tunnels; juvenile raccoon; small moose.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 13 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.