

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes 1/10/19

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

Others attending: David Greenwalt, Betsy Bates

1. Minutes for the meeting of December 13, 2018 were discussed. There is one correction: Nadia Fernandez will present on raptors during our winter educational series. The minutes were approved as corrected. Moved by Betsy Whitaker, seconded by Judy Fink. Unanimous.
2. 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. David Greenwalt discussed the intricacies involved with the Conservation Commission. "Scenic Roads", as defined by the state were also discussed. Discussions will continue at future meetings.
3. A discussion was held about the range of tasks done by members of the commission. This will be continued at the February meeting.
4. "Tiny Grant" for publicity for regional Conservation Commissions and environmental groups: next planning meeting will be January 15.
5. Educational Programs

January 26- Tracking workshop with Lynn Levine. 1-3:30 pm
Sign up in advance at

4 morning workshops in February-March, from 10am-12pm at the Evening Star Grange.

Conservation Genetics

Feb 8 Sarah Emel: Genomics Applied to Adaptive Plant Ecology, including Salamanders and Small Mammals

Feb 15 Lisa Komoroske, Leatherback Turtle & Nadia Fernandez, Golden Eagles

Feb 22 Tanya Lama, on Canada Lynx

March 1 Cathy Zeller, Landscape Genetics and Connectivity

BCTV will record the talks. After the presentations at the grange, the speakers will visit the Dummerston School for presentations to students.

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

Kelly Price will speak on Monarch Butterflies in the Spring.

Scott Farm: Trailbuilding

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

6. Dummerston Cares will cosponsor hikes with the Conservation Commission in April, May and June. They will be planned for various walking abilities. Locations and dates will be determined before Town Meeting.
7. Land conservation projects: Deer Run Nature Preserve has submitted a funding application to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.
8. Invasives: a caterpillar has been identified that eats Black Swallowwort plants. It has been tested for over ten years, and is beginning to be released into the environment.
9. Sightings: turkeys, pileated woodpecker eating crab apples, injured deer that was euthanized, fat squirrels, red bellied woodpeckers, wooley bear caterpillars on New Year's, fewer birds at feeders, grey fox and red fox tracks, skunk tracks, fisher tracks.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 14 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.