

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes 2/14/19

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

1. Minutes for the meeting of January 10, 2019 were approved. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Bill Johnson. Unanimous.
2. Ridgeline project: the Town Plan calls for the Conservation Commission to consider ridgeline conservation and make recommendations. David Greenwalt will be asked to present a model that would include the Rt 30 corridor and several other view scapes that could be easily updated over time for discussion.
3. Town Meeting: the Conservation Commission display this year will focus on Emerald Ash Borer, and the ash trees threatened along our town roads.
4. The Commission and Dummerston Cares will introduce our joint project sponsoring easy hikes in Dummerston this Spring. Options for hikes were discussed.
5. Educational Programs:

4 morning workshops in February-March, from 10am-12pm at the Evening Star Grange on **Conservation Genomics**. The first session was held on February 8. Options for getting more people out to the other sessions were discussed. The first session was: Feb 8, Sarah Emel: Genomics Applied to Adaptive Plant Ecology, including Salamanders and Small Mammals: excellent presentation, full of information.

The remaining sessions are:

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 is recording the talks. After the presentations at the grange, the speakers will visit the Dummerston School for presentations to students. Students were very interested in the first speaker's presentation on Feb 8.

March 26-David Sobel, Antioch educator and writer on children in nature. 7-8:30, at Evening Star Grange.

Kelly Price will speak on Monarch Butterflies in the Spring.

We will arrange a session on Poison Plants: Hogweed, Pigweed, Parsnip, Poison Ivy and other Irritants.

There will be a Fern ID walk, with Lynn Levine in July.

6. A discussion was held about the range of tasks done by members of the commission. Commission members took responsibility for various committee tasks.
7. Tiny Grant Update: a committee continues to explore options for communicating our programs to residents. The two latest possibilities include using Front Porch Forum, and the support of the Soil Conservation Service.
8. Sightings: turkeys, fisher tracks, ravens pairing up and defending territory, shrews, goldfinches, red tail hawk, house finches, red poll, nuthatches, mourning doves, deer, coyotes calling, red fox.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 14 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.