

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 3/14/19

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

1. Bill Schmidt was honored and thanked for his decades of service to Dummerston through his time on the Conservation Commission. Invasive plants, land use and conservation were Bill's special focus areas.
2. Minutes for the meeting of February 14, 2019 were approved. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Chris Olsen. Unanimous.
3. Ridgeline project: the Town Plan calls for the Conservation Commission to consider ridgeline conservation and make recommendations. David Greenwalt presented maps of Dummerston with views from the Rt 30 and Rt 5 corridors. For the next meeting David will broaden the view to cover all paved roads in town, and Stickney Brook Rd.
4. Educational Programs:
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, Cow weed, Parsnip, Poison Ivy and other Irritants.

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

5. An evaluation discussion was held on the workshop series. The topic this year, Genomics, was challenging, and bad weather restricted attendance on two days.
 6. John Anderson moved that the Commission contribute \$150 to the Grange for the use of the Grange. Judy Fink seconded. Approved. Unanimous.
 7. Fund raising: four years ago, the Conservation Commission had a fundraising drive to supplement money allocated annually by the Town. This has helped fund programs in Dummerston School, BCTV videos, and other projects. The time has come to raise funds again. A committee will meet to begin the process.
 8. Wednesday Walks and Saturday Hikes: The joint Dummerston Cares/Conservation Commission hikes will be held on Saturdays from
 9. April 7-June 15. Easy, short walks will be held on Wednesday mornings.
 10. Sightings: grackle, red winged blackbird, barred owls, skunk, robins at field edges, mallards on West River, mud, spiders on snow, bobcat tracks, turkeys, foxes vocalizing, hungry deer
- Next meeting: Thursday, April 12 at 6 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.