

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 4/11/19

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

Others present: David Greenwalt, Joan Carey

1. Minutes for the meeting of March 14, 2019 were approved. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Lynn Levine. Unanimous.
2. 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. A proposed fundraising letter was reviewed.
3. A discussion was held on building and commercial activity on lands zoned Conservation. A letter will be sent to the Development Review Board on the issues.
4. 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, all paved roads in town, and Stickney Brook Rd.
5. Educational Programs:
Joan Carey, Director of School Programs for Bonnyvale Environmental Education Fund, who is working with Dummerston School teachers and students, spoke on the programs. This is the third year BEEC has been in the Dummerston School, funded in part by the Conservation Commission. This year, the environmental education programs are available from K-5. Next year, it's hoped to expand to Pre-K. It's unknown what the effect of school district consolidation will be on funding.
6. Wednesday Walks and Saturday Hikes: The joint Dummerston Cares/Conservation Commission hikes will be held on Saturdays from April 13-June 15. Easy, short walks will be held on Wednesday mornings. More information at dummerstoncares.org and dummerstonconservation.com.
7. "The Unfurling of the Ferns" at Dutton Pines State Park will be hosted by Lynn Levine May 19 from 1-4 pm.
8. Sightings: ruffed grouse nesting, five years in a row; spring flowers beginning; blood root; vortex above the CT River; new beaver activity; turkeys; deer; wood ducks and mergansers; vultures; pussy willows.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 9 at 6 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.