

Dummerston Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes 5/9/19

Members attending: Judy Fink, John Anderson, Mary Ellen Copeland, Ed Anthes, Bill Johnson, David Greenwalt

Others attending: Debbie Brookes

1. Minutes for the meeting of April 12, 2019 were approved. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Betsy Whittaker. Unanimous.
2. David Greenwalt was welcomed as a newly appointed member of the Conservation Commission.
3. A discussion was held about the recent DRB hearing concerning unauthorized development in a conservation zone on the side of Black Mountain. A decision is expected in June.
4. The Conservation Commission will request that the Selectboard reinstate an old tradition: an annual meeting of the Selectboard with all of the town's committees, commissions
5. "Dummerston Cares" Walks and Hikes: about thirty people have been involved. The weather has been very rainy, probably limiting attendance.
6. Dutton Pines: Debbie Brookes has been tending the trail and pulling garlic mustard. The trail is in good shape and the park is being used.
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. These funds now need to be replenished. John Anderson developed a fundraising letter. Commissioners will send this letter to people in the community over the next couple of weeks, making follow-up phone calls if necessary.
8. Bill Johnson spoke about the book, Drawdown, which describes 80 methods of reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Two copies of Drawdown are available for circulation at the Lydia Taft Pratt Library in West Dummerston.
9. 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. We continue to work on this project, getting more and more clarity on what is needed as we proceed.
10. Educational Programs:  
Future programs will have a particular local focus, "Getting to Know Dummerston".  
"The Unfurling of the Ferns" at Dutton Pines State Park will be hosted by Lynn Levine May 19 from 1-4 pm.

Monarch Butterflies, Kelly Price, in July.

Mary Ellen will contact Elizabeth Spinney about doing a program on Poisonous Plants

We will ask Roger Haydock to do a program on Dummerston Geology in September.

We are also planning a meeting or series of meeting on "Getting to Know Dummerston".

11. Sightings: chipmunks are above ground again, turkeys, broad wing hawk, bluebirds, tree swallows, chipping sparrow, yellow warbler, oriole, loon, great blue heron, catbirds, kingbirds, indigo buntings, hummingbirds, bear

Next meeting: Thursday, June 13 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.