

Dummerston Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes 2/20/20

Members attending: John Anderson, Mary Ellen Copeland, Ed Anthes, David Greenewalt, Dan Kray, Jesse Wampler

Others attending: Christine Goepf

1. Minutes for the meeting of Jan 9, 2020 were approved. Moved by Dan Kray, seconded by David Greenewalt. Unanimous.
2. Jesse Wampler, a newly appointed Conservation Commissioner, was welcomed to the Commission.
3. Individuals interested in the work of the Conservation Commission attended and Commissioners explained the recent and upcoming work of the Commission.
4. Educational Programs for Winter

Black bears- Jaclyn Comeau, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department biologist, presented on Vermont's black bears. About 95 people attended. This excellent program is able to be viewed on BCTV through our website, [dummerstonconservation.com](http://dummerstonconservation.com).

Tracking with Lynn Levine- Feb 29, depending on snow.

April 14- Dummerston Rivers and Streams, Marie Levesque-Caduto, Watershed Coordinator, Dept of Environmental Conservation. 7:00 at Dummerston Church.

April 28- Monarch Butterfly Monitoring and Swamp Milkweed Planting. Judy Fink will lead this Citizen Science monitoring program.

May- Grassland Birds by the VT Center for Ecostudies. Neighboring Conservation Commissions will be asked to co-sponsor and support this program.

June- Monarchs and Milkweed Planting follow up.

June- Poisonous Plants

5. Marie Levesque-Caduto will be assessing the condition of the steps at the Covered Bridge, and reporting to the Commission on possible ways to address their deteriorating condition.
6. Dummerston Cares asked if the Conservation Commission would like to co-sponsor walks again this Spring. After discussion, it was agreed that the Commission would investigate co-sponsoring a walk about mosses and ferns and that John Anderson will lead a walk for Spring Ephemeral Flowers on Saturday May 9, at 10 am. Meet at the Rice Farm Rd entrance to the West River Trail.

7. Town Meeting presentations will include info on the 1940's proposal to dam the West River below the West Dummerston Village, and another map people will use to show where in town they've seen wildlife recently. David Greenewalt will prepare the maps.
8. Judy Fink continues to co-ordinate the BEEC nature programs sponsored by the Commission for the children at Dummerston School, and recently, with the contribution of additional funds from a local donor, the program has been extended to pre-school children.
9. Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Windham County. It is lethal to most ash. Previously it was thought that the mortality rate was 99%. New information indicates that White Ash may have a 25% survival rate. There may be significant expense to remove infested trees along the town roads. Dan Kray has been trained in the use of being used throughout Vermont to inventory ash trees along the town roads and utility corridors. Dan will contact Lee Chamberlin and the Tree Wardens to discuss possible next steps.
10. Dan Kray and David Greenewalt are working with Mike Kelly to keep the website up to date.
11. Sightings- Eastern coyote and red fox pairs, ravens, fisher tracks, chipmunks, skunks, racoons, stone flies along the West River, raptors (including 8 red tail hawks), bald eagles, bobcat, grey fox, turkey.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 12 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.