

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 5/14/20

Members attending: Christine Goepf, Ed Anthes, David Greenewalt, Dan Kray, Judy Fink, Lynn Levine, Rick Mills, John Anderson, Jesse Wampler

Others attending: Mary Ellen Copeland, David Baxendale

1. A discussion was held about the conditions of Nourse Hollow Rd, a Class 3 road in Dummerston. Several townspeople were disturbed by drainage work done by the road crew, which included installation of several culverts and resulted in destruction of several vernal pools. The Road Foreman determined that this work was necessary to comply with state requirements for drainage. Some abutting landowners would like it to remain a Class 3 road.
One of the vernal pools may be able to be restored or reconstructed.
Daniel Kay will check the Town Plan to be sure that it is in compliance with Act 171, regarding identifying wildlife corridors
BioFinder is a tool that can be used to hold all the information and accessed online.
Christine will develop a list of recommendations for the Selectboard, and will circulate the list to the other commissioners before forwarding on to the Selectboard.
2. David Baxendale, Selectboard member, will attend Conservation Commission meetings and act as a liaison between the Selectboard and the Conservation Commission.
3. Minutes for the meeting of April 9, 2020 were approved. Moved by Dan Kray, seconded by Rick Mills. Unanimous. One abstention.
4. The financial report was reviewed.
5. A discussion was held about ways to interact within the Commission and with other townspeople during these times of social distancing.
The "Dummerston Conservation Commission" Facebook page is up!
Videos, photos and sightings from the Dummerston Sightings blog will be posted on Facebook. Christine will be the point person for Facebook.
Several members are interested in developing short videos, about monarch butterfly conservation, and other Dummerston sites and natural features.
DCC will continue to publicize webinars done by other organizations.
6. Judy Fink reported that although the Swamp Milkweed Workshops are cancelled, the plants will be available at Bunker Farm for planting out, on June 4 from 4-7. Quantities are limited. First come, first serve. Free for the first 35 Dummerston residents.
7. Educational Programs canceled for the foreseeable future due to Covid 19.
8. Dan Kray spoke with the Dummerston Tree Wardens, the Road Foreman, and several Selectboard members, who supported the monitoring of ash trees by Conservation Commission members. The map done several years ago will be a good foundation. A meeting with DCC members, the Tree

Wardens, the Road Foreman, and Selectboard Chair will be held. Dan Kray is coordinating this.

Dan has tested the state's Ash app. Volunteers will be using the app to mark the ash trees along town roads. The nearest Emerald Ash Borer that has been found are in Rockingham.

9. A discussion was held about ideas that the Leadership Council at the school has for a nature/recreation trail along the hillside behind the Dummerston School. As envisioned, it would be about .6 of a mile, for walkers and mountain bikers. It was suggested that a nature trail made in that area in years past could be used.
10. Sightings- black coyote, yellow rumped warbler, bluebirds, tree swallows, peregrine falcons trying to nest, fisher cat, hummingbird, otters

Next meeting: Thursday, June 11 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.