

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 3/11/2021

Members attending: Dan Kray, Ed Anthes, Judy Fink, Christine Goepp, Lynn Levine, Jesse Wampler, John Anderson, Richard Mills, David Greenwalt

1. Minutes for the meeting of February were approved. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Richard Mills. Unanimous approval.
2. Held a discussion on how to fill Ed Anthes position on the commission. Christine Goepp will coordinate with Laurie Frechette on commission composition and the posting of a vacancy through the Selectboard. There are a number of options and interest in the position.
3. Dan Kray updated progress and changes to the newsletter and website. For the newsletter, we are already gathering preliminary articles on trails, inputs forthcoming on Deer Run, and some other suggestions on new materials. Also noted, the "Grandpa Nature Notes" by John Anderson has generated fantastic response. For the website there are a number of design and formatting updates that are streamlining content while maintaining content. Christine Goepp asked if there is a way to have a link directly to the newsletter from e-mails. Dan will work out the process for embedding links via the e-mail provider.
4. Discussion on Lynn Levine's short tracking and trail videos. Christine Goepp has been posting them on the conservation commission Facebook page, as well as the Dummerston Community Facebook page. Getting good response on the Dummerston Community Facebook page. With Spring coming, it's time to take down the bird feeders! Christine Goepp will put a note out on the Facebook page in order to warn neighbors.
5. Rick Mills discussed the "Little Free Libraries" with conservation and nature topics projects to be installed around the Dummerston area. Judy Fink suggests looking at the western areas of Dummerston. Also, the intersection of Stickney Brook Road and Lake Road is an option and is reasonably central. Rick Mills will work on at least one prototype to present next month.
6. Christine Goepp brought up a volunteer participant in Vermont Green Up Day. Mary Ellen Copeland forwarded the email and Christine Goepp forwarded the information to Mark Brown (Vermont state contact). Christine Goepp put forward the idea of posting / linking to the event on the Facebook page and in our newsletter. Dummerston Center does hand out bags for the event. Maybe something additional can be done to support the event post-cleanup – meet at Dummerston Center for potluck activities. Also, in the postings on Facebook we will include that local high school Seniors can use Green Up Day participation as a portion of their community service requirement.
7. Education and Collaboration: We should note when commission members take time to participate in external education and collaboration as these

events and time commitments meet our commission goals and responsibilities. Lynn Levine sat in on the updating of the Town Plan in order to include natural resources. Our inputs to the Town Plan put forth the plan of what we have been asked to do and how we want to approach those issues. Christine Goepp will circulate the requests from the Town Plan to the rest of the commission.

8. Judy Fink presented updates on BEEC and Monarchs. The BEEC updated is drafted, but needs a few more inputs that are hindered a bit by COVID activities right now. BEEC fundraising is now very successful in raising its own funding – greater than the number we are providing. The urgency to fund them from town dollars has declined based on their growth and ability to stand on its own. The commission would still like to support in the future. Judy will send the final BEEC input to Dan Kray for both the newsletter and the website. Judy Fink is working the application submission to the AVCC Tiny Grant program for the monarch / milkweed project. If we don't get the funding, we can still do the project with little pain and in-kind donations. Price of plants will be based on whether or not we get the grant.
9. Dan Kray reported on the Emerald Ash Borer- Mapping Project dashboard. There's been work in the southwest corner of town and we are about 25% complete now, with about 30% of the map being claimed.
10. David Greenwalt updated the Roadside Features project. He uploaded a revised map that is essentially the same as a previous, but with the addition of wetlands / vernal pools as feature points that include notations for indicating endangered species and plants present in those areas. David Greenwalt is ready to print a new map and he and Christine Goepp will coordinate to have it presented to the road crew in order to get feedback on this foundation document. After informal coordination with the road crew, we can then move to get the map into the Town Record or to the road crew via a method determined by the Selectboard.
11. Sightings: Red-winged Blackbirds (early harbingers of Spring!), should see Hepatica blooming!, Coltsfoot, and Daphne should bloom soon.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 8th at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Todd Davidson