

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 7/8/2021

Members attending: Dan Kray, Judy Fink (remote), Christine Goepp, John Anderson, David Greenwalt, Rick Mills, Lynn Levine

1. Financial Report: Contribution / check incoming from Jody Normandeau to be deposited the commission funds. Helen (Monarch program) will also be sending an invoice. Both will be sent to Christine Goepp in the near future. Also, appears to be a total of \$100 donations have been made to the account. Will verify with town office the source of donations. Motion to accept financial report made by Rick Mills, seconded by John Anderson. Unanimous approval.
2. June Minutes: Lynn Levine moves to accept minutes as read, Rick Mills seconded. Unanimous approval.
3. Public Outreach:
 - a. Newsletter content (Dan Kray): Newsletter went out on Sunday. Included a trail entry this issue. Dan has some photos to be included on the website. "Nature Notes" by John Anderson is once again popular. The newest monarch butterfly article is ready for posting.
 - b. Website content (Dan Kray): Some technical issues over the last two weeks, but the site is up and running. Technical issues were based on an older web language program in use with the host that we are trying to move away from in the future. The move to a newer version of the program will increase site security. There are pulldowns now available to get to the blog posts and the new butterfly post. The blog portion of the site is using RSS feeds that e-mails registered users, but this capability won't be supported in future. Lynn Levine and the commission are working on another capability to ensure blog subscribers continue to get notification of new blog posts.
 - c. Dummerston Sightings: Discussion about applications that allow for both plant and birdsong identification.
 - d. Facebook: Christine Goepp will be cross-posting the newsletter and blog posts.
 - e. Conservation stations (Richard Mills): Seems to be an increase in usage. Considering a second station in future. John Anderson reports that some camp children awaiting parents were perusing the station. The newer material seems to be the most popular and keeping those in stock is important. There is a notice now on the box that indicates that books are free for use for any period of time; to be returned or replaced by users. John Anderson will contact a book collector who might be willing to sell some books in lots that can be used to stock the station/s. Location consideration underway where car pull-offs are available would be optimal. Considerations are being taken about whether or not to keep the stations up in the Winter. John Anderson reports that at

least half the books that have been put in place are 'out' and in use, as well as some number of trail maps.

- f. Fall 2012 Party Planning (scheduled for September 12th at the Dummerston School): This will be a town event and Lynn Levine attended a planning meeting. The commission will be manning a table and will focus on trails as a town-specific item. Ideas include an ability to show online map capabilities, as well as providing hardcopy maps for attendees.

4. Active Programs:

- a. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) activities: Discussion on what to donate for this year. We gave them \$2,000 last year, with an indication to them that the amount moving forward might not be as much. BEEC certainly is happy with the donation amount in support of its programs. Discussion focused on how the commission intends to spend budgetary allocations. We anticipate more live programs / speakers with the current environment and funding will be needed in order to prioritize needs. Christine Goepp will check with the town if there is a forthcoming October disbursement. Previous BEEC donation was seed money to keep get BEEC on its feet and running, but they are doing quite well so future donations might not need to be as generous. The commission settled on \$500 for this year's donation. Rick Mills put forward a motion to make the donation \$500; seconded by Lynn Levine. Unanimous approval.
- b. Monarch project (Judy Fink): Plant distribution went well. The Bunker Hill Farm Facebook page notification drew in a number of attendees. The crowd was interested and happy to be part of the plant giveaway. Town teachers and students participated. Judy is looking into workshops (dates and times to be posted on our website) next Tuesday to Sunday to share information about the rapid timeline between Monarch egg laying and hatching. Judy will work with Dan to re-use last season's Monarch videos since much of the information and nature schedule are the same as last year. Judy will also be sending Dan new pictures of this year's Monarch activities.
- c. Land Stewardship:
 - i. Steps at Covered Bridge: Christine Goepp is hoping to attend a Selectboard meeting to discuss the steps.
 - ii. Trails: Discussion addressed how to present trail maps, what products does the commission have access to? Can we come up with a method to survey Dummerston users at the Party? Moving forward, the methodology for updating, use of, and distribution of trail maps will continue to be discussed. David Greenwalt will continue gathering data for inclusion into the project.
- d. Emerald Ash Borer: Progress is slowing down a bit, but we are still on schedule. Update is forthcoming from Dan Kray.

- e. Trout Stocking: Rick Mills continues to work on the idea and will have an update forthcoming for the next meeting.
 - f. Invasives: Christine Goepp had spotted a small patch of Japanese Knotweed near the coverage bridge. She is interested in using this patch as a working example or testbed in how to treat Japanese Knotweed infestation. The commission will continue pondering how to move forward on determining our contribution in upcoming years.
 - g. Speakers/Seminars/Events: Starting work on locating and planning future events. John Anderson has a list of options for speakers (i.e. Eric Hanson, Vermont Common Loon Recovery Program). Christine Goepp or John Anderson will reach out to possible options. Christine will also meet / visit the Community Center to see if it is a viable option for lectures and talks.
5. Sightings:
- a. Judy Fink: Reports a ramblin' bear with two cubs passing through her property.
 - b. John Anderson: Slew of cottontail rabbits out at Dummerston Landing. An otter was up at Sunset Lake – that otter might be guilty in the soon after missing loon nest!
 - c. David Greenwalt: Bobcat sighted in his backyard.
 - d. Lots of foxes, barred owls, and turkeys across the area.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 12 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Todd Davidson