

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 2/10/2022

Members attending: Christine Goepp, Lynn Levine, John Anderson, Rick Mills, David Greenwalt, Amy Wall (new member!)

- Administrative
 - December Minutes: Motion to accept put forth by Lynn Levine, seconded Rick Mills. Approved by unanimous consent.
 - Financial Report: Motion to accept put forth by by Rick Mills, seconded by Amy Wall. Approved by unanimous consent.
 - Amy Wall introduced as a newly appointed commission member, as of January 26th, 2022. Additional discussion on possible new members to fill the three remaining commission vacancies took place. Expectations are that there may be potential new members auditing meetings in the near future.
- Public Outreach:
 - Events: A quick review of John Anderson's Hawk Talk was discussed; eighteen attendees all enjoyed the presentation.
 - New Community Sightings Platform: Lynn Levine suggested a path or method for residents to report sighting around Dummerston. Christine will query our web guru if there is a way to structure our social media in a way that allows the public to easily post and/or discuss the life around Dummerston. The commission will move forward in trying to determine both the capability and the announcement of the capability to the public. Christine will lead research for now.
 - Information for New Residents: Commission discussed the possibility of creating a team or pamphlet that can present new residents about their land and the town, interesting tidbits related to that land, and other points or marks of interest. Reaching out to new residents if they are interested could provide a welcoming and information services to newly arriving families. Christine, Amy, and Lynn will work in a team to create a working product.
 - Newsletter: The monthly letter was well recieved. The trail of the month was posted and walked by some commission members. John Anderson has more articles on nature that he will forward for inclusion in future newsletters. The next trail for the upcoming newsletter will be the the loop trail at Scott Farm; David will coordinate the effort.
 - Upcoming talks: The Commission discussed possible upcoming events, including a talk by the county forester and a birdhouse workshop for March. Other ideas included seed saving, trail cams, gardening methods, stone walls, fruit and berry program, pruning (Erin Robinson of Scott Farm being a possible contributor), farming conservation efforts, worm composting, and other active community programs for Dummerston families.
 - Christine will be attending a webinar on Conservation Commissions.
- Active Programs:
 - Maple Valley Development: The commission is still a **registered as a party in the effort** and will continue to follow the progress.

- Covered Bridge stairs: No status update as the grant process is on hold.
- Emerald Ash Borer: No updates
- Speakers / Seminars
 - See above. The Commission is working on a probable birdhouse workshop in late March.
- Sightings: Amy Wall heard three great horned owls and saw lots of pine siskins this winter. The goldfinch 'invasion' all over the area most likely originated with storms to our south that drove the birds northward for a period of time. They have mostly dispersed across the area at this point. David reports that he 'rescued' a merlin from his coop area.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 10h at 6 pm, location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted, Todd Davidson