

Dummerston Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes 3/10/2022

Members attending: Christine Goepp, Lynn Levine, John Anderson, Rick Mills, David Greenwalt, Amy Wall

- Administrative
  - February Minutes: Motion to accept put forth by Lynn Levine, seconded by Amy Wall. Approved by unanimous consent.
  - Financial Report: Motion to accept put forth by Lynn Levine, seconded by Rick Mills. Approved by unanimous consent.
  - Emily Alexander and Jesse Wagner attended as possible new members. Introductions and discussions had around the commission table. Moving forward, both are invited to join the commission and their names and interests will be forwarded to the Selectboard.
- Public Outreach:
  - Website: Working through some formatting on the site - signing up, hyperlinks, email links, etc. Christine Goepp with work with our web developer to clean up issues.
  - Trail of the Month: Nominations include the possibility of one of the Scott Farm trails, but May or late April might be a better option for the farm trails (peepers!). Lynn Levine discussed the walk from the Dummerston covered bridge toward the falls (Falls brook). John Anderson nominated the Black Mountain trail up to the beaver pond. Portions of the West River trail are also an option, with a Dummerston starting point and heading towards Brattleboro. Elysian Hills trail/s are also an option moving forward. Rick Mills discussed the option of the Hague Road and Missing Link trails, though full mapping needs to take place - Rick and David Greenwalt may work on mapping for future trail considerations, and Rick will discuss with landowners. Lynn suggested the covered bridge-to-the quarry as a best option for next month - it's a half-mile trail from the bridge. Jesse Wagner put forth the trail from Rice Farm lake up Black Mountain. ***The commission is going to move forward with the bridge-to-quarry trail for next month.***
  - Lynn Levine had draft of a welcome letter for new town arrivals. Amy Wall hasn't heard back from the town about participating in distribution of the letter moving forward. Commission members reviewed the draft.
  - Newsletter: There are some format changes (fonts, layout, etc.) this month and they appear to be an improvement. The commission will also be working on upgrading some of the graphics in the next months.
  - Dummerston Sightings: Not many to report this time of year (John Anderson), but as Spring approaches the area will ramp up in the newsletter. Lynn is going to add some fern notes moving forward.
  - Spring 'Views': John Anderson will be writing/submitting an article to the Views of Dummerston. Expecting to possibly add photos from the March birdhouse building event (see below).

- Facebook: The postings have been successful and are getting some responses.
- Birdhouse building event: Amy Wall will be running the bluebird house building program on ***Saturday, March 19th at 3pm at Dutton Pines State Park***. So far, five people have signed up through Lynn Levine.
- Conservation stations: Rick Mills reports that two more are nearly complete and the commission will need to discuss locations, contents, and plans moving forward. As the weather warms a determination will be made on possible locations. A goal is to have locations where people can pull off to access the stations.
- Active Programs:
  - Land Stewardship:
    - Rain Garden: Christine Goepf reports that as weather warms the effort will pick up. The garden near the covered bridge can be difficult to access and making the garden more welcoming might help. The commission will put out feelers for master gardeners, to include in John Anderson's 'Views' articles. The commission will consider the 'show' aspect vice functional aspect. A future workday/work eve after leaf out is under consideration to assess and clear the garden, if needed.
    - Maple Valley Development: The commission is still **registered as a party in the effort** and will continue to follow the progress.
    - Covered Bridge steps: No status update as the grant process is on hold.
  - Speakers / Seminars
    - See above. The Commission is hosting a ***birdhouse workshop on March 19th***.
    - Future events: Next speaker is being worked. Jesse Wempler may have an option for more bird talks. Possibility of land conservation presentation discussed, as well as alternative outreach such as including individual services in new resident outreach. Lynn Levine also suggested that the commission review BCC TV events (recorded over the years) and see if any previous talks could be re-booted. Amy Wall will review.
- Sightings: Amy Wall has 30 snow buntings (*plectrophenax nivalis*) about the place! Jesse Wagner had some interesting possum tracks through the snow - the tail leaves quite a mark, as well as a screech owl at the end of their field.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 7th at 6 pm, location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted, Todd Davidson