

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 11/17/2022

Members attending: Christine Goepf, John Anderson, Lynn Levine, David Greenwalt, and Amy Wall

- Administrative
 - Financial Report: Reviewed. **John Anderson motions to accept; Lynn Levine seconds. Unanimous consent.**
 - October minutes: Reviewed. **John Anderson motions to accept; Lynn Levine seconds. Unanimous consent.**
- Programs
 - Newsletter / Trail of the month - Reduced newsletter published in early November. Looking towards December's newsletter the expectation is to have a small letter again with Holidays upcoming. The focus of the December letter may be a summary of the trails published throughout 2022. The information will align with the fully new website that is up and running. We might consider winter night sky articles and / or events. As for events, see below.
 - Website - Fully up and running. All the commission members are going to review content and style and provide inputs to Emily Alexander.
 - Invasives control - No updates
 - Town Plan (2023) - No updates
 - Town Report - The commission is requested to summarize activities for the upcoming 2022 town report due December 15, 2022. Christine Goepf will lead the effort.
 - Facebook - No updates
 - Conservation stations - There appears to be no planning issues for stations moving forward. Coordination is being finalized between the town clerk, the planning commission, and the selectboard. A possible location is near/at the Lydia Taft Pratt library or next to the current little library at the Town Office. Next step is to coordinate with Laurie regarding placement.
 - Discussed an invitation to join the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council (VTGC). The VTGC is an advisory council for Vermont communities. Commission discussed their approach to joining, intent, and plans for the VTGC moving forward. There is a Zoom meeting in December 14th (2-4pm) that a commission member will attend to determine further commission interest. **Membership decision will be tabled until after the VTGC meeting.**
 - Land Stewardship
 - Rain Garden - Cliff Adlar submitted a report on the status of the garden. Most of the work that can be done is seasonal and will most likely be addressed in the Spring. Items will be added to future agendas in 2023.
 - Maple Valley - It appears that outdoor music events, as well as rehabilitation / recovery / use of the parking area on the river side of

Highway 30 has been forbidden by an Act 250 decision (news story reported). Further status or actions are unknown.

- Speakers / Seminars / Events - There are no plans for a December event. Looking towards January 2023 there are options being discussed. There might be a possibility of an outdoor night sky event. John Anderson and Christine Goepp will be the leads to follow-up on options. Looking forward, Lynn Levine may do a snow tracking event / lesson in February. Additionally, may be able to speak for an indoor event during the Winter. Amy Wall suggested the possibility of an event focused on native plants to coincide with people order seeds and planning for next season. Lynn Levine suggested looking at the issue of old grown forest and current use permits in Vermont.
- Dummerston Sightings - a red fox napping in John Anderson's field; a gang of 17 turkeys were hanging about nearby - fox cared not. John also finally found some lance-leafed violets growing in Sunset Lake below the current, lower waterline. John had an acquaintance photograph three great-horned owls in the same tree along the Connecticut River.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 7th at 6 pm at the Town Office

Respectfully submitted, Todd Davidson