

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 7/13/2023

Members attending: Christine Goepf, John Anderson, David Greenewalt, Lynn Levine, Rick Mills, Emily Alexander, and Jesse Wagner

- Administration
 - May meeting minutes: Reviewed. **John Anderson motions to accept; David Greenewalt seconds. Unanimous consent with two abstentions (Emily Alexander and Rick Mills were not in attendance at the previous meeting)**
- Programs
 - Newsletter - For next month's newsletter the commission is still considering nature app reviews and recommendations for residents. Members will send Christine apps they use for identification and other resources, such as favorite books, state offices, and websites.
 - Website - Current newsletter will be uploaded and event will be created for the van Loon event (see below).
 - Trail booklets - No further information.
 - Invasives control - Black swallow-wort is prevalent this year. Bad for monarchs because they mistake it for milkweed but it cannot support caterpillars.
 - Ridgeline Overlay - The ridgeline overlay map discussed; the finalized version in hardcopy format will be submitted this month to the town/selectboard. Christine will send text to David, David will print out text and larger map and drop off at town office for the Selectboard.
 - Facebook - App reviews may also be included on Facebook.
 - Conservation stations - Still planning where to install the next two stations. Christine will bring in the DCC info sheet to ensure that information is up to date for inclusion in conservation stations and at events.
 - Land Stewardship
 - Steps by covered bridge - Waiting on the Vermont state permitting office response.
 - Update on Middle Road land conservation – Neighbors are exploring options to conserve/purchase the land behind the firepond. Jesse and Christine are part of this effort but it is unlikely to involve the Commission beyond potentially supporting conservation of wetlands.
 - The Commission will issue a letter of support for a piece of land to be conserved by for Deer Run. **Jesse Wagner motions for a letter of support; Emily Alexander seconds. Unanimous consent.**
 - Speakers / Seminars / Events - Pieter van Loon from Vermont Land Trust will speak on July 27th at 6pm at the Dummerston Community Center in West Dummerston. Lynn will promote this talk on the website, in local media, and on Facebook. At a minimum Christine, Jesse, Lynn, and John plan to attend to set up and take down. There are other events being lined up for

the Autumn, to include bats, bat houses, a Prospect work day, etc. Jesse will reach out to a Marlboro ecologist to gauge interest in a possible presentation. Pot luck gathering of Windham Conservation Commissions planned for Sept. 15 at the Grange. Rick will talk to Sally to reserve the space, Christine will confirm date with Margo Ghia and other members. At the request of the Community Center, members agreed to leave the DCC's projector screen installed at the Community Center between events for use by others.

- Sightings
 - John Anderson was at Dummerston Landing after the rains and believes he spotted a couple of otters.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 10th at 6 pm at the Town Off
Respectfully submitted, Todd Davidson