

Dummerston Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 12/12/2025

Members attending: Jesse Wagner, Ron Svec, Bill Conley, David Greenewalt, Debbie Miller
Public attendees: Phil Goepp, Chris Alexander

Called to order: 6:00pm

- **Administration:**
 - Financial report – **Motion to accept by Jesse Wagner, seconded by Lew Teich. Unanimous consent.**
 - October meeting minutes – **Motion to accept by Ron Svec, seconded by Jesse Wagner. Unanimous consent.**
- **Conservation Goals and Initiatives:**
 - **Wetlands Comments.** Discussion about proposed changes to wetlands zone of restriction for development permitting by Gov. Scott. Public comments due by Jan. 14, 2026. Debbie will attend 12/15/25 meeting in Springfield. Discussion whether DCC will submit comments. **Motion to submit comments by Debbie Miller, seconded by Lynn Levine. Unanimous consent.** Debbie and Jesse will coordinate and submit.
 - **Library conservation collection.** Christine G and Bill C reported on their visit to establish a dedicated section at the library for books the DCC recommends. Christine will follow up with a sign that will mark the section for library patrons.
 - **Conservation station.** Jesse will talk to the Dummerston School (Lindsey Glabach) about establishing a butterfly conservation station focusing on children's books.
 - **Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) discussion.** Discussion regarding continued membership with AVCC and \$50 annual membership fee. **Motion to renew membership by Lew Teich, seconded by Ron Svec. Unanimous consent.** Christine will request a warrant for the fee.
 - **Connecticut River.** After discussion of possible collaboration with the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, the sense of the meeting was to focus efforts with the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC). Lew recommended that DCC join the annual Source to Sea river cleanup which will be held Sept, 18-19 2026. Lew will look into organizing a clean-up team from Dummerston for this event.
 - **Brattleboro Environmental Education Center Discussion (BEEC).** Discussion regarding continued support for BEEC's educational programs at Dummerston School and other conservation efforts. **Motion to fund again**

at \$650 from Lew Teich, seconded by Jesse Wagner. Unanimous consent. Ron will liaise with Michelle Simpson at BEEC for a future visit.

- **Dark Sky Vermont.** Discussion regarding possible collaboration with Dark Sky Vermont. Christine will reach out to a representative to see about a possible meeting.
- **Invasives Booklet.** Debbie reported that the booklet will be printed and ready for distribution by January 2026.
- **Covered Bridge Steps.** Lew reported that he had done some clearing of unwanted growth at the foot of the stairs. Also that someone had added sand to the gravel fill in between the stair tread.
- **Speakers/Events.** Bill will follow up with potential speakers about using trail cams for wildlife viewing and preservation. Ron reported about possible talks by Haley Kolding of Vermont River Conservancy and Jim Andrews, reptile specialist. He is in contact with both and will report next meeting. Jesse still pursuing options regarding Ethan Tapper talk. Christine would like to convene a session on using knots for various purposes.
- **Views of Dummerston.** Bill will draft article and share with group. Due date is January 6.
- **Sightings:** Jesse saw a merlin in downtown Brattleboro that flew very close to him. Bill mentioned a flock of 20-30 turkeys on his land.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 8 at 6pm at the Town Office