

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes 2/8/18

Members attending: Mary Ellen Copeland, Ed Anthes, Bill Schmidt, Judy Fink, Bill Johnson, John Anderson

1. Minutes for the meeting of January 11, 2018, were approved as submitted. Moved by John Anderson, seconded by Bill Schmidt. Unanimous.

2. Educational Programs

January 24. "Ties to the Land". Mary Siscock spoke on "Land Ownership Succession Planning". It was very informative. Mary is available for individual consultations.

January 27 - Trees and Tracking, in the woods with Lynn Levine, had a full group in attendance.

February Series-

4 Wednesday Mornings, 10-12 am at Evening Star Grange: What we need to know and do to protect our local environment in a time of climate change.

Mark Breen's weather workshop was postponed by one day, due to snow. It was well attended, by 70-75 people. It was held in the church, which worked very well, except that it was hard to see the slides. Bill Schmidt moved the Commission donate \$50 to the Dummerston Church. Ed Anthes seconded. Approved, unanimous.

Feb 14, Vern Grubinger will present on Changing Weather and Agriculture. Feb 21, Todd Menees will speak on how weather changes the land and waterways. Feb 28, Tom Rogers will speak on wildlife.

April

April 10- VT Fish and Wildlife will present on Creating Habitat for a variety of species, from butterflies to birds to brook trout.

Arbor Day program- Lynn will coordinate this with other Conservation Commissions, to be held at the Brattleboro Art Museum.

May- Wildflowers with John Anderson

June- Planting for Pollinators. With Tom Sullivan. Co-sponsored with Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC)

5. Regional Conservation Commission will be held March 21 in Putney.
6. Town Meeting is March 6. We will have a display about deer browsing our forests.
7. Biodiversity Inventory update- since the original publication, more rare plants have been found and additional lands conserved in Dummerston. Additions to the original report will be developed this Spring.
8. Land conservation- a meeting will be held Thursday, Feb 15, at the Community Center to discuss potential conservation of large blocks of contiguous land. A discussion of regional conservation efforts was held.
9. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid monitoring with Jim Esden: this is more a countywide project than town wide, so this has been forwarded to BEEC. There is a study block on Black Mountain.
10. Rain Garden- A discussion of correspondence received from Kate Harris, Master Gardener, planning for this year's growing season.
11. Sightings: turkeys, bobcat, black squirrel, flicker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, ruffed grouse, pileated woodpecker

Next meeting: Thursday, March 8 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Anthes