

## **Dummerston Conservation Commission-Meeting Minutes 7/12/18**

Members attending: Bill Schmidt, Bill Johnson, Betsy Whitaker, John Anderson, Lynn Levine, Mary Ellen Copeland, Ed Anthes, Chris Olsen

1. Minutes for the meeting of June 13, 2018, were approved as submitted. Moved by John Andersen, seconded by Bill Schmidt. Unanimous.
2. The fiscal year end financial report was reviewed. Expenses and income for the past year were discussed.
3. Educational Programs

July 18 Forester Ian Martin presents on a logging operation planned in the woods west of Dummerston Center. There will be a walk at 5 pm and a question and answer session in the Evening Star Grange at 6:30 pm.

August 15: Twilight Walk at Elyssian Hills, 6 pm. Raindate August 16.

August 30: Ferns with Lynn Levine. Lynn's new book is The Secret Life of Ferns. There will be an evening program and also a later field walk on Sept 1. (Call to reserve a space for the field walk. 254-4717)

Sept 15: Putney Mountain Hawk Watch 10-3 with John Andersen. (Raindate Sept 16)

October- VT State Archeologist, co-sponsored with Dummerston Historical Society.

Other topics being considered: Monarch Butterflies, Trail building

A general discussion about the winter educational series was held. Ideas for the theme were discussed.

4. Regional Conservation Commission Meeting: Dummerston will host the semi-annual meeting November 15 in the Dummerston Church. Potluck at 6, meeting from 7-8:30.
5. "Tiny Grant": The commission was granted \$300 from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions to begin the project to set up a web site and email for the region's Conservation Commissions and environmental groups. BEEC will set up the website and maintain it. Further grants will be requested for ongoing maintenance.
6. Dummerston School: The Conservation Commission has paid part of the cost for school children to work with educator naturalists from BEEC. Principal

- JoCarrol Ratti has requested that the Commission continue that support in the coming school year. Bill Johnson moved that the Conservation Commission fund the educational program at \$2,000 for the 2018-19 school year. Second by Betsy Whitaker. Unanimous.
7. Prospect Pasture: the trail was cleared of overgrowth and downed trees at a work morning at the end of June. Buckthorn was cut around the pasture. Conservation Commissioners discussed alternative ways to keep the pasture clear. A Fall workday to clear this season's growth in the pasture is set for Sept 22. Volunteers with weed wackers are needed.
  8. A discussion of Westminster's ridgeline preservation program was held. Mary Ellen will talk to Sam Farwell about how to move forward with this.
  9. Act 250 meeting: the Legislature is planning to review and update Act 250. Opinions at a meeting in Springfield, hosted by David Deen, were gathered to pass on to the Legislature. Chris Olsen attended this meeting.
  10. Rain Garden at the Covered Bridge: poison ivy is a problem again. Marie Glabach will be asked to take care of it, as in the past. Mary Ellen will be in touch with the Master Gardener about cutting back the woody shrubs to encourage regrowth.
  11. Sightings: bears, all over town. Cottontail, turkeys, ruffed grouse, wood cock, Canada geese.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 8 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Anthes