

Dummerston Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes 9/12/19

Members attending: Judy Fink, John Anderson, Mary Ellen Copeland, Ed Anthes, David Greenewalt, Bill Johnson, Lynn Levine

Others attending: Richard Mills, Debbie Brookes, Dan Kray, Paul Smith

1. Paul Smith, Curriculum Coordinator, Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, spoke with the commission about natural sciences education. Much of the past focus was on Math and English Language Arts. Now the science curriculum is based on national Next Generation Science Standards. Effort is being made to increase science teaching time, and improving resources available to teachers. There has been a long-time collaboration with Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center and with Four Winds. Dummerston Conservation Commission has supported this work in the Dummerston School. Each school creates its own budget. Even under the unified district, there will be need and opportunity for continued DCC support. WSSU will help publicize our Fall events.
2. Minutes for the meeting of August 8, 2019 were approved. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Bill Johnson. Unanimous.
3. Donations continue to be received from the Conservation Commission fundraising appeal.
4. Fern Walk with Lynn Levine, was well attended and will be online at BCTV
5. Educational Programs for the Fall will include:
  - September 19- **Geology of Dummerston**. This workshop will set the scene for the series. Marjorie Gale will give a presentation about the geological underpinnings of Dummerston. At the Dummerston Center Church, 7 pm.
  - October – Mike Clough, SE Vt Natural History Museum, **Historic Wildlife of Dummerston**. At Dummerston School, Oct 17, 7 pm. We will partner with the Dummerston Historical Society.
  - November –**Maps of Dummerston**. David Greenewalt will be the presenter for this program. The presentation will include a basic understanding of how/why topographical maps are made, how to read them and what to look for. Judy will work with David on setting this up.
  - December 3– **Mammals in Dummerston**. Kim Royer from the State Dept of Fish & Wildlife. Focus is where the mammals and wildlife corridors are in Dummerston and how they can be identified.
6. Covered Bridge: steps to the river are deteriorating. We are seeking clarification on who owns that land. The town does not want to do anything about this problem but others can.
7. David Greenewalt presented another map for the continuing discussion of ridgeline protection.

8. Climate Change- there will be a Climate Strike rally at Pliny Park on Friday Sept 20 from 11:30-1:30.
9. Prospect- Rick Mills and his daughter replaced a broken board on the bridge. The trail is clear to the top.
10. Sightings: monarchs! A very good year for monarch butterflies. Large bear, small bears, Three Bird Orchids, night hawks, Yellow Spotted salamander, turkeys, black grey squirrels

Next meeting: Thursday, October 10 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.