

Dummerston Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes 11/14/19

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

Others attending: Carolyn Mayo-Brown

1. Minutes for the meeting of Oct. 10, 2019 were approved. Moved by Judy Fink, seconded by Rick Mills. Unanimous.
2. The financial report was discussed. It includes the deposit of the money appropriated by Town Meeting for the next year, \$850. Judy Fink moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Rick Mills. Unanimous.
3. Carolyn Mayo-Brown reported on the successful efforts to acquire rights for the Missing Link Trail, which will allow a trail to be developed from Prospect Hill to the Dummerston town line with Putney. At Holland Hill Rd, the trail will connect with the Putney Mt Trail. The Putney Mountain Assoc. is sponsoring the project. They have applied for funding from Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and are beginning a local fundraising campaign.
4. Educational Programs for the Fall

October 17 – Mike Clough, SE Vt Natural History Museum, **Historic Wildlife of Dummerston**. With live animals! Partnered with the Dummerston Historical Society. Great success! Very well attended, including children.  
November 12 – **Maps of Dummerston**. David Greenewalt presented this program, including a basic understanding of how/why topographical maps are made, how to read them and what to look for. Very well attended, with lively discussion of the many maps displayed.

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 have been identified. Tuesday, Dec 3, 7pm in Dummerston Church.

5. Possible 2020 Programs were discussed, including Monarch Butterflies and Swamp Milkweed; Streams and Rivers of Dummerston; Tracking; Trees; Poisonous plants; Black Bears; Mosses and Lichens on the West River Trail; Hikes in Dummerston, based on an update of the Dummerston Trails Map.
6. Regional Meeting of Conservation Commissions and Environmental Groups, Monday, Dec 9 at 5:30 in the Marlboro Community Center. Carpool from Covered Bridge at 5 pm. Lynn Levine will describe Dummerston programs.
7. Programs at Dummerston School- Judy has been liaising with the school and Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center.
8. Prospect Hill Pasture- Rick has been clearing fallen trees. There are several more to be done and will be scheduled before snowfall.

9. West River Trail is in good shape for walking, but needs care for bicyclists due to tree roots and holes.
10. Eroding stairs at Covered Bridge- this is town property, but money is not available to fix the stairs. The Conservation Commission will explore options for fixing the stairs, which are used by many people, both residents and visitors.
11. Deer Run Nature Preserve will be closing on its anchor parcel, 287 acres in northwest Dummerston, imminently. Deer Run is also signing a Purchase & Sale agreement for the adjacent 626 acres in Newfane and Brookline. This parcel includes 2.5 miles of West River frontage.
12. Bill Johnson announced he will be moving away, and no longer able to serve on the Dummerston Conservation Commission. He will be missed. There is a need for a new commissioner.
13. Sightings- fox at dusk, in multiple places; bear and three cubs; bear at the Putney Mt Hawk Watch; Barred Owls; beavers; deer.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 12 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Anthes.