

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
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Executive Director

BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION COMMISSION GROUP
Meeting Notes
November 4, 2009, 7:00 PM

1) Welcome and introductions

Attendees:

Terry Eucker, Berkshire Conservation Agent
Bill Tynan, Egremont Conservation Commission
Mary Turek, Sandisfield Conservation Commission
Ken McInerney, New Ashford Conservation Commission
Sean Carr, Sandisfield Conservation Commission
Harold Brotzman, Williamstown Conservation Commission
Sarah LaValley, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting

2) Review of November 4th Meeting Notes

The group agreed the notes were OK.

3) Member Issues / Discussion

A cell phone tower has recently been permitted in Egremont, it will be required to be camouflaged. Four of the Brodie windmills have been put up, and construction of the others will likely be delayed. Country Curtains in Lee will have solar panels on the roof.

4) Training Topic: Identifying Wetlands in Autumn Using Remnant Plants

Terry let the Group know that the wetland plant remnant training has been split into pieces for more in depth-study. Today's training is all about ferns. November is usually the last time of year it is possible to conduct wetlands ID.

Terry provided an overview of wetland indicator status and fern terminology. Ferns are separated into groups by how many times they are 'cut.' Terry provided pictures of some wetland indicator plants in summer and after the first frost, including sensitive ferns, particularly the fertile frond, the Ostrich fern, Royal fern, Cinnamon fern, and Interrupted fern. The fertile portions of each fern can help to differentiate them from other ferns.

Terry provided samples of many post-frost ferns, and the group practiced identifying fern types using plant guidebooks.

Tips for identifying ferns include:

- Fertile fronds
 - Where are they located?
 - What shape are they?

- Stems
 - Hollow or solid/
 - What shape?
- Leaflets
 - What shape are they?
 - How many times is each cut?

Training Workshop materials are available at: www.berkshireplanning.org/conservationagent/BCCG

5) Other Training Events / Workshops

MACC's fall conference will be held November 7 in Northampton. The focus will be enforcement.

6) Next Meeting

The Group agreed to meet again on December 2.