

DCC Members in Attendance: Vange Morse (Chair), Greg Prior (Interim Secretary), Jo Oliver, Bridget Ferrin **DCC Members Absent:** Jake Langmaid

Public in Attendance: AJ Follensbee (County Forester), Julie Rapczynski

Meeting Open 7:00pm

1. Changes to the Agenda

None

2. Review and accept minutes from the October 2025 meeting

Meeting began with immediate engagement with County Forester – AJ Follensbee

3. Public Comment – Beginning Meet

Meeting began with immediate engagement with County Forester – AJ Follensbee

4. Introductions: Welcome AJ Follansbee

Casual hellos and summer efforts were shared. AJ's dog experienced a porcupine quill event during his efforts onsite at the Pumpkin Hill Forest over the summer. Drought conditions were mentioned.

5. Discuss next steps for Pumpkin Hill Forest Management Plan

AJ (County Forester) presented work he has been doing to help Danville prepare for the Pumpkin Hill Town Forest Management Plan's 10-year refresh.

Map printouts for the Pumpkin Hill Fores were distributed:

- Spelling correction for "Pumpkin/Pumkin" was noted.
- Map legend does not yet contain a color scheme for the hemlock stand.
- Locus Map title was identified https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locus_Map
- Map base image was "leaves off season", only evergreen trees show as forested.
- Trails were recognized as not always clear on the map or in person.
- Appreciation for the quality and content of the map was shared.

Plan Actions for the 4 different forest map sections were shared:

- **Stand 1** – Start harvesting mature white pine as soon as possible.
- **Stand 2** – A plan is outstanding to improve the desirable hard woods.
- **Reserves** - A potential plan to connect reserved areas and limit fragmentation.
- **Stand 4** - An excellent location for possible community volunteer effort for thinning.

The “Schedule of Management Activities” chart found on page 50 of the plan was identified as possibly being a location to summarize and schedule the stand specific recommended actions – in addition to the currently well-defined general management tasks in the chart.

AJ queried as to how he should combine the new stand specific content with the existing plan’s broader content. DCC Chair stated it would be fine to append the new content, and Danville would work on integrating.

AJ pointed out that the first 21 pages of the plan is content from the Town of Orange’s Forest Plan. The pages are offered for Danville to consider equivalent content in our plan.

Danville CC Action Items:

- Provide any additional content that DCC would like added to the plan. AJ will handle formatting but would need DCC to provide the content.
- Additional / Updated recreational trails content was mentioned as desirable.
- Evaluation of the provided Town of Orange content as a template was mentioned.
- New content append/integration as mentioned above.
- Physical marking of Pumpkin Hill Forest boundaries is recognized as outstanding.

Topics that may engage the broader community such as carbon management practices, volunteer stand replant events, bird profiles, improved recreational trail mapping, and topographical mapping were debated. Walking events (pre-logging, during logging, and regeneration) were mentioned as particularly valuable hands-on opportunities that AJ would be open to supporting both in the plan and helping to execute day of event(s).

Combining the Rodgers Lot and Pumpkin Hill Forest Management Plans was mentioned. It was agreed that the significantly different geographic and forest characteristics should keep them as two plans.

Plan Path Forward – it was agreed that Danville would provides content, AJ will work on formatting the plan file and also provide a “storybook” file. Content and plan will be sent back and forth between the two parties. Ideally the plan will be well developed by year’s

end, public outreach will occur in early spring, harvest marking in the spring, and Stand 1 harvest will then go out to bid.

Timber market conditions were mentioned, pine is typically a local builder's product, and the hope is markets should not be impacted by current tariff and political pressures.

6. Discussion of Rules of Procedures for meetings. Vote to reduce Conservation Commission membership to 5 instead of 8

This topic was not addressed during the meeting. Casual conversation prior to the meeting mentioned membership and quorum as a simple majority with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 9 per Vermont State statute 24 chapter 118.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/24/118>

Identifying if DCC has its own published Rules of Procedure is outstanding.

7. Review AVCC Hardwick meeting Saturday October 11th by Greg and Jo

This topic was not addressed during the meeting. Greg distributed a write-up from the event in October: [DVT - Conservation - AVCC Regional Gather 2025 1011.pdf](#)

8. The Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District (CCNRCD) asked if DCC would like to attend their annual community dinner on Wednesday 11/12/25.

Event emphasis will be an effort to get people interested in volunteering. The invite includes a request for DCC to speak briefly about our organization. Jo Oliver stated she is registered to attend. Greg Prior mentioned it conflicts with Danville's Town Services Committee's end of year recommendation delivery and will not attend. Other DCC members are evaluating attendance.

9. The Northern Forest Center, in partnership with County Foresters, AJ Follensbee and Matt Langlais, has invited DCC to a gathering of NEK town/community forest committees on Monday November 17th 5pm at the Community Center in West Burke.

The intention is to bring folks together to get to know each other and respective Town / Community Forests. Discuss management priorities, successes, challenges, efforts to address forest climate resiliency and to explore collaborative and learning opportunities.

DCC members checked calendars and expressed interest. Vanger recommended that each Danville Commissioner schedule attendance independently.

10. Town Newsletter: Blurb for next quarterly newsletter

No notification of next newsletter publication has been received yet. The Commission expressed strong interest in engaging during the next letter, particular in regard to publishing public engagement opportunities for the new Pumpkin Hill Forest Plan.

11. Town Bookkeeping update and file storage

Vange stated that this can be taken offline and she will get with Greg for more information.

12. Any other business

AJ was asked what his perception of the Emerald Ash Borer progression was, particularly as it does not seem to be very active in local news / media. AJ responded that the topic remains fully active, black ash in particular appears to be impacted in infection areas. He noted that Ash population is negligible in the Danville Town Forests so no need to address in the management plans.

13. Public Comment – End of Meet

None

Meeting Closed 8:36 pm

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2025 at 7:00pm