

Danville Conservation Commission February Minutes

February 2, 2026 - 7PM

DCC Members in Attendance: Vange Morse (Chair), Greg Prior, Bridget Ferrin, Jo Oliver

DCC Members Absent: Jake Langmaid

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

Meeting Open 7:00pm

1. Changes to the Agenda

None

2. Review and accept minutes from the January 2026 meeting

Minutes unanimously accepted as offered.

3. Public Comment – Beginning Meet

None

4. Welcome Caledonia County Forester - AJ Follansbee and go over the draft management plan for Pumpkin Hill and talk about next steps.

AJ Follansbee has been merging the new data he has collected for the Pumpkin Hill Town Forest Plan into the existing 2015 version of the plan. Consensus was that the merge was looking positive with only a few issues with punctuation and formatting outstanding.

Additional forest plan debate included:

- How could we add identification for the different stands within the plan's maps? Improve visual understanding of the (4) identified tree stands within the forest.
- Forest boundary line markings were mentioned as outstanding entries to the action items list, the west boundary in particular.
- Maintenance of the open field and parking locations clarity. There were questions as to who seasonally maintained (mows) the field and when. Greg Prior offered to locate the town bid contract to confirm Pumpkin Hill Town Forest is not in scope.
- The current state of the Boy Scouts or other active youth organizations was spoken to. Decision to modify maintenance wording to Town, and Conservation and Scouts or others will work in partnership.
- Ash and Ash Borer infestation was mentioned as a broader community topic, but Pumpkin Hill Town Forest was again clarified as having minimal ash tree populations and not required attention in this plan.

- Reserves within the stands were identified as valuable information to improve identification and planning.
- The immediate recommendation of logging pine was repeated with the broad statement that the site is optimally a hardwood stand so selective cutting outside the defined tree stand may be a valid option for that stand. Pending spring 2026 approval of the plan, AJ stated he could start putting the logging job out to bid for winter 2026/2027.
- A potential Shagbark Hickory tree was mentioned as onsite and possibly needing mapping and planning. [Carya ovata - Wikipedia](#)

A public walk was again identified as a desirable part of the report delivery to the public and Selectboard, scheduled for Spring 2026. The public meeting to gather public input may have value to be held simultaneously with the Selectboard informational presentation as well. Allow AJ (County Forester) to do a single presentation and add to the overall publication event/process.

Town Meeting Day was agreed upon as delivery date for final merged product.

5. Set dates for any upcoming actions in Pumpkin Hill TF or at Rogers Lot. As well as any public meetings with AJ for the Management plan, invite planning commission members and selectboard

This topic is pending / tabled – a spring date is desired but exact calendar date was not identified.

6. Talk about the structure of the committee and when we vote on terms and officers. What officers are we mandated to have? Do we have ByLaws and Rules and Procedures?

This topic is pending / tabled – additional research and presentation at a commission meeting is outstanding.

7. Treasurer business: Current state of funds and timeline for use of funds for upcoming projects in the town forest. Update board on last meeting with Dusty May, Northwoods representative. We are waiting for spring to get a better on the ground estimate of our needs. Do we want to invest in a CD and what are the maturation dates?

Motion was made to recommend that “Selectboard invest \$10,000 of the \$17,000+

Conservation Mangement Fund into a short term certificate of deposit.” Motion was made and passed with unanimous approval. Expenditures with Northwoods and different options to fix the rut in Rodgers Forest was debated, decisions on path forward will be picked up once snow melts in the spring and the area in Rodgers Lot can be better evaluated.

8. Town Meeting/Report Status and what have we learned from Barry Calhoun from the Joes Pond Association. - Printing and handouts for Town meeting day display and outreach.
- Put in for the next newsletter ? When is that date

Jo Oliver stated she is willing to continue as the communication contact with Barry and the Joe’s Pond Association (JPA). There is a perception that much of the JPA is out of town during the winter so progress/process is slower this year. Recent reports state that Joe’s Pond likely has a significant infestation in all three ponds and the topic is going to need significant attention moving forward.

Newsletter spring submission date was identified as last day in February.

9. Website update - all the work that Glenn has done, how can we help?

It was questioned if the Town Forest should have their own page, or added to the “Community” page. The thought being that the public was unlikely to know to look under the Conservation Commission for Town Forests?

10. Old/Other Business

11. Public Comment – End of Meet

None

Meeting Closed 8:33 pm

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 2nd, 2025 at 7:00pm