

DCC Members in Attendance: Vange Morse (Chair), Greg Prior (Clerk), Julie Rapczynski

DCC Members Absent: Bridget Ferrin (Treasurer), Jo Oliver **DCC Volunteers in**

Attendance: Barbara Huibregtse

Public in Attendance: AJ Follensbee (County Forester & Presenter), Keith Gadapee, Jan Oulette, Kristin Calkins, Kim Prior, Chelsea Hewitt, Nancy Tirrozzi, Susan Wadiak

1. Introduce County Forester and Presentation

AJ Follensbee (County Forester & Presenter) presented the 2026 Pumpkin Hill Town Forest Plan. Town Forest Plans are to be refreshed every 10 years by VT state statute. AJ recognized Danville's last Selectboard approved plan for Pumpkin Hill was 2015 and complimented the Town in addressing the effort in a timely manner.

The presentation was offered with a Storybook app product: <https://arcg.is/19fSa3>

- AJ recognized that Danville has two town forests
- AJ mentioned the importance of Large Forest Blocks and recognized that Pumpkin Hill Forest's 100 acres are part of a larger 500-acre non-fragmented forest block.
- AJ described the 4 primary tree stands within the town owned forest and mentioned that the soils and climate in the forest are primarily suited for hardwoods.
- Two of the tree stands are recommended for selective harvesting (logging).
 - **Stand #1** contains white pines that are at maturity, are being negatively impacted by insects and pathogens, are not the ultimately desired trees for the location, and are of financial value to Danville if harvested properly.
 - Marketable harvest = white pine milled board & chipped biomass.
 - Phased winter harvests of white pine at 40% 2027 and 30% 2032 with 30% being retained is recommended to allow surrounding trees to grow and transition optimally.
 - Harvest process would be bid out to professional loggers.
 - Limited regenerative planting following harvest recommended.
 - **Stand #4** contains vigorously growing young hardwood, thinning to allow selective tree release from the dense growth is recommended.
 - Marketable harvest = firewood. Low market return but significant long term financial impact due to improving the stand.
 - Selective marking and possibly chainsaw work may be available from County Foresters.

- Harvest process recommended as community engagement events and youth education through partnering with County Foresters.
- **Stand ##2 & 3** are on track for optimal path forward for the scope of this plan. A number of interesting and even unique trees were identified.
- Invasive plant populations were identified in various places within the forest as requiring community attention (pulling or spraying).

2. Public Comment with Questions and Answers

Productive questions and conversations were held between the County Forester, Conservation Commissioners, and attending public.

The next step for the plan will be presentation to the Selectboard for approval and signing at the regularly warned third Thursday in May meeting.

Meeting Adjourned