

Danville Conservation Commission May Minutes

May 4, 2026 - 7PM

DCC Members in Attendance: Vange Morse (Chair), Greg Prior (Clerk), **DCC Members Absent:** Bridget Ferrin (Treasurer), Jo Oliver, Julie Rapczynski

Volunteers in Attendance: Barbara Huibregtse, David Irwin

Public in Attendance: None

Meeting Open 7:05pm

1. Changes to the Agenda

None

2. Approve April minutes

There were requested modifications to the April regular meeting minutes by Barbara, minutes were modified to address. There were spelling errors in the April special meeting minutes, minutes were modified to address.

3. Recap Arbor Day, Green Up Day, and Pumpkin Hill Management Plan meeting. Things we learned and what can we do better next year.

Arbor Day – It was mentioned that possibly this could become a DCC annual event (Green 2027 / Greenbanks 2028)? It was mentioned that regeneration planting following the Pumpkin Hill white pine harvest may be a good Arbor Day planting event.

- **Tree Payment Compensation** - The Chamber of Commerce offered to pay for the larger tree at DVIS' Spring Meeting. It was unclear if this had been paid. Receipt to be filed with Town Clerk for tree warranty.
- **Soil to Craig Morse** – tree planting used soil amendment material provided by Craig. Jo purchased replacement potting soil, will deliver, and submit receipt to Town Clerk for reimbursement.
- **Support Stakes** – It was decided that support stakes are not needed for the planted tree.
- **Water Schedule** – Greg offered to identify watering needs and help water.
- **Warranty / Receipt** - Peter at Nature by Design will warranty replace the tree as needed, unless it is damaged by mowing equipment.
- **Formal Thank You** – Mention of thank you letters was made (Tree Warden, Craig Morse, Bruce Brinks), but no action was identified.

Green Up Day – The Green Up Day event was mentioned as a success.

Pumpkin Hill Management Plan – The public input plan presentation was mentioned as a success. Selectboard presentation and adoption scheduled for May 21st.

4. Discuss Pumpkin Hill next steps for Management plan and timber harvest.

- Identify and pull invasives – This was recognized as an activity that could move forward immediately. No date was set.
- Northwoods Vendor - Identifying areas for trail work and discussing the use of vendor supported trail development was discussed. Rodger's Lot was identified as not requiring vendor paid work at this time. It was recognized that Northwood may be closing its summer schedule, and timing is important. A tentative evening walk through the wetlands and formerly invasive grasses area was set for next week. Exact date pending Bridget availability. A desire to maximize the investment and partner a community volunteer effort with the vendor was mentioned.
- Opportunities for education during both invasive and trail work are recognized.

The Selectboard's feedback and approval of the Forest Plan will be required before planning most next steps (thinning, logging, etc). The County Forester's willingness to engage in a chainsaw thinning event was recognized.

5. Volunteer and neighbor outreach for Pumpkin Hill, especially Dan Wyan.

Inviting these Pumpkin Hill Forest neighbors to the walk through and possibly getting their feedback on any Northwoods effort was agreed to be a good step. It was recognized that the Commission was not aware of his volunteer efforts in the forest.

5. Update on Rodgers lot trails from volunteer trail crew. Discussion and planning on trail work and upkeep, and any ideas for the use of Northwoods vendor.

There were no identified projects for Northwoods at Rodger's Lot. Volunteer directed effort was recognized as sufficient for 2026. The following topics were discussed:

- The wet ruts in the trail need drainage and fill. Main access road ditching is recommended to improve drainage as well.
- If approved by Town, fill to improve pedestrian bypass of the gate is recommended.

Vange requested that Greg deliver these recommendations to the Town Administrator for feedback and path forward.

- Improving Trail Markers using blue trail markers was recommended. The limited number of remaining blue markers were provided to David Irwin. It was asked if possibly Bridget may have more blue trail markers?

- One large log is across the bike trail, but other than the wet ruts and log blowdown, the trails were reported in very good shape.

Longer term recommendations including brush hogging the logging roads for improved access for users not nimble enough for the singletrack trail, seating benches, possibility of using the logging landing as a flat park area and improving access road visibility from Bruce Badger.

6. New Members. Barb is doing paperwork to transfer from volunteer to commissioner. Julie was understood to possibly be still interested in commissioner position as well.

7. Any Other Business. The Town Services Recreation Trail effort was mentioned. Acquiring DCC letterhead to allow formal thank you and recognition efforts (AJ, Tree Warden, Craig Morse, etc) was mentioned but not embraced – alternate small expenditures were casually mentioned.

Public Comment – End of Meet

None

Meeting Closed 8:05 pm

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2026 at 7:00pm