

Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Danville Town Hall

2/3/20

Attendance: Dave Houston, Vange Morse, Brian Henderson, Matt Langlais

1. Approved minutes of December 2, 2019

2. Matt Langlais, the county Forester was here to present his marking activities in the town forest.

- Everything is done except for 3 more stands. Only needs one more day to mark. Stands 16 & 17 are slated for Red Pine over story removal. Stand 6 needs to be amended again: There's really only 10-15% white pine not 30% as indicated in our plan. Matt recommends a clear-cut of that one acre with leaving the white pines for a seed structure.
- Parking area: There's a great flat ¼ acre potential 4 – 5 space parking area we could create just south of the telephone pole and the vast trail beside the homestead. We can cut all the trees out of there, but would need the town to create the parking lot. We will want to check with Keith about doing excavation, and gravel and delineation. Matt suggested we can purchase a kiosk (Timber and Stone) or a company out of Montpelier (VT Timber Homes) Temo Bradley is the proprietor of that company. We can check them out on the website. That's what Kingdom Trails uses.
- Bid or Negotiated sale? Bid = more money but lose control of cut and people. Its not going to be a big money making job anyways. The majority is red and white pine. And most of the white pine is lower grade. Red pine prices are rock bottom right now.
- Dave H: Since there's not much money in it, it seems like it is our responsibility to get the best job possible.
- Ask selectboard if it's possible to do a selected bid.
- Who in town is qualified?: Matt suggests Isaac Pearl, Mark & Richard Reando, JP Sinclair (he's got a feller buncher and hand felling skills which will be needed on this job.) Want to shop to at least 10 people. Matt is going to put a list together that we can review which includes the skills and equipment needed.
- Matt will put together a bid prospectus (including equipment needed and timeframe) and the list of contractors which we will review in the next meeting and decide on who we will recommend to the selectboard. We will want Keith and Wes to help us with this decision.
- We will then present to the selectboard the forest harvest amendment, the bid prospectus and our logger selections for a "limited" bid.
- Reminding the town of the original management plan and inventories and suggested harvesting. Including our methods of involving the audobon forest bird habitat initiative and the natural communities mapping.

- Once the bids come in, the bid openings are done either by the selectboard, the county foresters, or the conservation commission. We should ask them if they would like the conservation commission to handle the bid openings with the county forester present. We would come out of the meeting with a high bidder recommendation for the selectboard.

3. Next meeting the 17th to discuss bidders.

4. Go over our harvesting education and outreach timeline

- Some of the signage that Matt has participated in with Kingdom Trails they made it about the landowner, the harvester, and the town (we can see those on the website of the Kingdom Trails). And that really helped people and guests understand the importance of forest management to the community and the landowners.
- Dave wants to highlight the silviculture and the why are we cutting, and what we can expect in the future.
- Dave: Pre harvest walk is important to get people familiar
- Need to get people there during the harvest for sure to see it happening
- Get the signage done and do a walk the following year - A post walk is important is well.
- Matt suggested getting the word out through the Coverts group about our walks.
- We originally talked about a Spring walk, but the summer might be a better time to since we will have our logger at that time. Matt suggests June for a good preharvest walk. June 25th Thursday 6pm. General meeting for the public.
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- The Chittenden County Forester has done a lot of tours in the Hinesburg town forest.

4. Dave shared the EAB progress in the state of VT so far.

- Matt Langlais talked about Whiteout Solutions and his offer to make Burke a test spot to locate EAB by driving a car with his lydar system. This would enable them to do a direct cost calculation of how much the EAB will cost them in the future.
- Northern Forest center and Tabitha, getting species and diameters (volumes) Still needs saw quality vs. pulp quality. 30 acres in 30 minutes.
- We should get some numbers from Matt to see if we can calculate estimated costs of future EAB.
- We need the most updated map from VT Invasives, or the vtcommunityforestry.org.
- Information about the invasives in the town forest.
- Dates of the forest walk and bullet points about why we are harvesting