

## Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Town Hall Meeting

2/07/2022

**Attendance:** Vange Morse, Bridget Ferrin, Barbara Huibregtse, Luke, Via zoom:  
Deb Bixby, Libby Hillhouse, and Paul Weaver

1. Welcomed Luke A Recreation Specialist from the State of Vermont here to give us some direction with what we need to start thinking about for trail building in the town forests. We familiarized him with the location of our town forests and the trails we might have in mind to build.

Luke indicated that a good way to start thinking about where to build trails is to first identify Central Points of the area in which you would like to build trails for example: Starting points, ending points, Points of interest, interesting resources, highlights and points or areas to avoid due to terrain or wetlands, etc. and then build the trails with those points in mind.

Things to think about would be:

Historical Considerations – although we may have some historical areas you would like to highlight on your trails, we need to consider things like distance of the trail to things like cellar holes (trail compaction of areas which may contain artifacts) restricting access to the center of cellar holes if they may be dangerous, etc.

Wetlands – It's always better to access sensitive wetlands or streams at a 90-degree angle to limit the amount of damage to the wetland even if it means a down and back to the main trail. This might also allow you to limit the amount of boardwalks necessary

Sensitive Wildlife areas - taking into consideration important habitat to sensitive wildlife. Luke doesn't necessarily consider deer sensitive wildlife in VT.

Topography considerations: Better to build trail side slope than to go up and down hills. Consider drainage along or over trails.

He suggested some great online resources: like the ANR Atlas – and online mapping tool which has different layers of information about the landscape and wildlife. Also, the NH trails for Wildlife which may help us find areas of high impact.

Building considerations include: Accessibility for older people, wheelchairs, etc. keep in mind any structures we put in will need to be maintained.

2. We set a tentative date to do a post harvest walk with Matt Langlais on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to see the potential of trails based on the logging trails created through the forest. Matt should be able to also help us with trail building ideas. We discussed making sure that we include the neighbors in the post harvest walk and any trail building ideas. Especially Janet Carson since she showed interest. Barbara said that she has her contact information. Bridget volunteered to get the addresses of the adjoining landowners to alert them of our walk.
3. Libby suggested that we think of doing a North Star article including some of the great stories that Matt during our first Forest walk.
4. Spoke briefly about the Bee the Change initiative put forward by Patrick Kitchen who is looking for an acre of Town land to plant bee pollinator plants. We spoke about a couple of locations including the new solar field and Pumpkin Hill Town Forest. Paul said the solar field is privately owned and managed by Norwich Solar Technology. Paul and Barbara said they would reach out to Patrick to see if he could join us for our next meeting to let us know what his project is all about and what kind of ongoing maintenance it might require.
5. Set the next meeting for Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.