

**Town of Hardwick
Hardwick, Vermont**

Hardwick Conservation Commission Special Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 @ 9:30am @ Memorial Bldg.

Present: Lesa Cathcart, Ken Davis, Kathy Hemmens, Rachel Kane, Ben Pougner, Norma Wiesen

Absent: Tyler Buswell, Lucy Zendzian

Guests: Hannah Redmon (Trust for Public Land), Jack Travelstead (Northern Rivers Land Trust)

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to consider a proposal for the acquisition of a 319-acre property to expand the existing town forest on Buffalo Mountain. The property is owned by brothers Ken and Chris Davis and is currently on the market.

- 1.** Meeting called to order at 9:30.
- 2. Ken** provided background on his use of the land on Buffalo Mountain, noting it is currently open for ATVs and some snowmobile use. He then left the meeting at 9:45.
- 3.** Members discussed the steps necessary to carry out this proposal.
 - A. Lesa:** expects to get information about the economic benefits of such a project from Town Manager Upson.
 - B. Kathy** has data about the benefits of town forests and has, as well, the report from a 2017 public meeting to gather citizen ideas for town forest uses.

4. **Hannah Redmon** and **Jack Travelstead** joined the meeting from 10:00-10:15, answering questions about the project and the process to achieve it.
5. **Lesa** made a motion to support the Hardwick Community Forest on Buffalo Mountain Project Proposal (as described by the Trust for Public Land) and to meet with the Town Selectboard to ask for their support. Seconded by **Kathy**. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Meeting adjourned at 10:40.

NOTE:

1. **Paul Cillo (Northern Rivers Land Trust)** and **Rachel** will attend the Hardwick Selectboard meeting on Thursday (June 26) to introduce the project and ask the Board to schedule time for a full presentation at their July 10 meeting.
2. **Hannah Redmon, Jack Travelstead, Paul Cillo** and **Rachel** will make that presentation.

.....

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, July 14, 5:00pm at the Memorial Bldg.

Submitted by Norma Wiesen, Secretary