

**Town of Hardwick**  
**Hardwick, VT 05843**

**HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 9, 2025 @ MEMORIAL BLDG.**

**Present:** Lesa Cathcart, Kathy Hemmens, Rachel Kane, Norma Wiesen

**Absent:** Tyler Buswell, Ken Davis, Ben Pougner

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

1. Meeting called to order 5:00 pm
2. Minutes for meetings of May 12, 2025 and June 2, 2025 approved unanimously
3. **Presentation by Hannah, Paul and Jack: Potential Creation of a Community Forest on Buffalo Mountain on land currently for sale**
  - a. **Hannah:** The purpose of the national non-profit Trust for Public Land is to connect citizens to the outdoors. The TPL helps by steering local groups through the process of acquiring land (assessment, paperwork, legal info), determining what the community's goals for a Community Forest are, assisting with acquiring funds (i.e.: TPL, Town of Hardwick, Nature Conservancy, VT Housing Conservation Board, etc.)
  - b. **Jack:** NRLT worked with TPL on the recent creation of a Community Forest in Wolcott. Jack had high praise

for their help in the success of this project. Wolcott organized a committee of 15 local members to conduct a town-wide survey to guide the use of the Forest. The committee worked with the county forester to develop a plan the goals of community survey. The NRLT holds a conservation easement and is responsible to oversee its stipulations.

- c. Paul:** Suggested steps for the HCC: If the HCC agrees to go forward to create a Community Forest on Buffalo Mountain, the HCC must gain approval from the Selectboard, bringing the TPL and NRLT representatives to help answer questions. The HCC could form a citizen steering committee to build community support and survey the community's goals for such a Forest.

Three key initial elements: Willing landowner, support of HCC, support of Hardwick Selectboard.

#### **4. Consensus about next steps**

- a. Rachel** will schedule a meeting next week to continue discussion of this project

#### **5. Kathy: Recent forest-related work**

- a.** Reported on her work to initiate forest management plans for the current Town Forest lands: Buffalo Mountain, adjacent to Hardwick Lake and East Hardwick. She has located a 2018 Town-wide Survey of the community's suggestions for forest usage. She has made contact with Emily Potter, Lamoille County Forester, and learned that she may be ready to help with plans by this fall.

**6. Rachel: Let's Go Fishing.**

- a. Rachel will advertise this June 28 event on FPF.

**7. Consensus:** work on the NRI programs of walks/talks will halt until questions about the Community Forest proposal are settled.

**8.** Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by Norma Wiesen, Secretary

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: MON. JULY 14, 5:00pm, Mem. Bldg.