

**Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission Special Meeting
October 20, 2025**

Members Present: Sky Claud, James Donahey, Holly Henderson, Mary Hutchins and chair Katie Mann.

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: None.

A hybrid Hartford Conservation Commission (HCC) Meeting in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law was held on Monday, October 20th in Room 2 of the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street in White River Junction, Vermont. Chair Katie Mann called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Katie proceeded to read the Hybrid Meeting Script followed by a roll call.

- 1. Review Request by the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center to use a Designated Location (trees marked by a forester) in Hartford Town Forest to conduct the Game of Logging Training 10/27-10/30/25:** Katie reported that she was recently contacted by Natural Resources Instructor Dan Gibson of the Hartford Area Career Technology Center (HAC&TC) about his request to hold the Game of Logging (GOL) training at the Town Forest. She noted that the Town Forest has been used for the GOL training for many years. A forester would mark the trees for cutting and the trees selected to be cut would have to adhere to the Forest Management Plan. Katie stated that in the past, ten trees were cut for the training. The training teaches students how to safely fell a tree. This year, Katie reported that twenty trees are proposed to be cut. She added that foresters Dan Healy and James Donahey agreed to mark the trees to be cut Friday, 10/24. Katie noted that Dan Healy suggested identifying a five-acre site in the Town Forest where the HAC&TC can do educational work while adhering to the recommendations in the Forest Management Plan.

Mary expressed concern about the number of trees being cut. Holly agreed. Mary asked how many times a year will the Town Forest be used for the Game of Logging. Katie responded once or twice but will confirm with teacher Dan Gibson. There was consensus to leave the tree stumps and dead wood after cutting. James stated that the cut trees will be used to release adjacent preferred trees and adhere to the Forest Management Plan. He stated that he understands the concerns of the HCC and will share them with forester Dan Healy.

Mary made a motion to approve the cutting of up to twenty trees in the Town Forest that are marked by a forester and that the stumps and felled trees are left on-site. Holly seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. Katie thanked the HCC for attending this special meeting.
- 3. HCC Member Terms:** Sky Claud, (7/31/27), James Donahey (7/13/29), Mike Harris, vice-chair (8/7/27), Holly Henderson, (10/14/28), Mary Hutchins, (10/30/27), Ted Levin, (11/15/25) and Katie Mann, chair (3/20/27).