

Randolph Forest Commission

Minutes

Date: June 4, 2014
Location: Randolph Town Hall
Members Present: John Scarinza – Chairman, Walter Graff, Doug Mayer, Jeff Parker, Mark Kelley
Others Present: David Willcox, Alternate Member, Walt Wintturi - RCF Forester, Tyge Rugenstein - Crown Maple, Dave Fuller - Fuller Maple Sugar House, Chris Steinmann - Mount Jefferson View Inn & Cabins

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

- I. Minutes of the May 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved
- II. The Chairman took a moment to review the Maple Sugar proposal presented at an earlier meeting by Tyge Rugenstein of Crown Maple. This was followed by a presentation by Dave Fuller of Fuller Maple Sugar House (FMSH), covering topics the RCF should be aware of in opening the RCF to maple sugar production. FMSH, in addition to being a producer of Maple Sugar products, sells related equipment, and purchases raw maple product from nearly 100 Northern New England maple producers. His operation is based in Lancaster, NH and he took the opportunity to walk the area of the Randolph Community Forest being reviewed for maple sugar production. FMSH has taps on leased private landowners and also on land leased from the State of NH. Prices are computed by the number of taps, based on the average price of maple sugar as found on agreed upon financial source. The number of taps is not typically actually counted, but based on an average number per acre. One of the biggest points of discussion for the RCF land is the number of trees of 10" or larger per acre. The minimum diameter of Maple trees allowed to be tapped can be a significant element to profitability. The State of NH currently requires a 12" minimum, but this could be changing in the next year. John Scarinza had accompanied Dave Fuller on his walk, and noticed that the existing skidder trail network was rather well established and could serve as a network for a

Randolph Forest Commission

Minutes

future maple sugar harvester. One consideration in an operation of this size to keep in mind, is that some 3-4" pipe may need to be buried below frost line to protect it from damage which occurs when the lines are hung from trees. Walt Wintturi had walked the compartment after the May meeting, to review the area that was originally considered for a logging operation. In light of the discussion of considering it for maple sugar production, he agreed that this area would provide an alternative to logging that would be a benefit to the RCF. The logging of Compartment 3A would be valued at approximately \$60-80,000, then it would be about 15 years before it could be logged again. If put into maple sugar production, there is potential for 50,000 taps at an estimated \$0.75 per tap or \$37,500 per year in rental. Over a 15 year contract, that generates as much as \$562,500 over the same time. From an employment point of view, one estimate is about one job for every 9,000 taps. That would be approximately 5-6 jobs in the woods. This would also mean the creation of production jobs, depending upon where the production facility is located. The next steps are for the RFC to review the options available, amend the Stewardship Plan that needs to be approved by the Planning Board and the State of NH, and hold a public hearing for comments, before any of this can go out for public bid. With these actions in mind, realistic timing for sending out RFP's would be March of 2015 to establish a lease for the 2016 sugaring season.

- III. Kel-Log has cut the wood and hauled it off site for the Trailhead Parking project. The operator for the next phase is due on the job very soon, and road construction work will begin. Work is expected to be completed during July. A bid request to construct a kiosk at this site will go out shortly. After the job is awarded, work will begin to coincide with completion prior to the annual forest tour in August.

Randolph Forest Commission

Minutes

- IV. **Invoices:** Kel-Log submitted a bill of \$25,000 for the first portion of the bid to construct the Trailhead Parking lot, and Brian Campbell submitted a bill for \$1,100 to cover on-going boundary line painting.
- V. Doug Mayer accompanied Carl Demrow, of Seven Oaks Consulting, on a walk to design a trail(s) to be built from the general area of the Farrar Farm to the Crystal Mine. Carl submitted a proposal for \$1,500 for the design portion of this project. His work would be concluded by August 2014. Construction would be done by the RMC during the summer of 2015. A motion was made and second to accept the Seven Oaks Proposal and the vote was unanimous.
- VI. York Land Services submitted a proposal for \$2,800 to establish and mark the property line of the Farrar Farm on the South side of Route 2. A motion was made, seconded and approved to begin the work.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday July 2, at 7:00 PM in the Randolph Town Hall.