

# Randolph Forest Commission

## Minutes

**Date:** April 5, 2017  
**Location:** Randolph Town Hall  
**Members Present:** John Scarinza – Chairman, Mark Kelley, Doug Mayer, and Alternate Member, David Willcox  
**Others Present:** Dwight Bradley, Michelle Cormier, David DeGruttola, Bob Drescher, Jeremiah Hawkins, Tyler Ray, Dave Salisbury

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, and appointed David Willcox in place of Walter Graff

- I. Minutes from the March 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- II. Invoices were presented for approval:
  - a. Landvest, Inc. #2803 Consulting: \$240.00
  - b. Landvest, Inc. #2685 Consulting: \$ 158.66
  - c. American Forest Foundation Annual Tree Farm Dues: \$205.58
- III. Tyler Ray and Dave Salisbury made a presentation from the Granite Backcountry Alliance (GBA) regarding backcountry skiing on the RCF, being called the “Glades Project.” A written recommendation was handed out for discussion. The proposal included a strong volunteer effort to design, prepare and maintain the area on an annual basis. Two GBA representatives are local residents, Dave Salisbury and Jeremiah Hawkins, who will be available to the RFC as needed. There are a few signs proposed to explain the use and care of the trails, along with some simple International Blue squares and Black diamonds to offer guidance. GBA is donating \$2,000 to cover out-of-pocket expenses and asked the RFC for a matching fund to cover similar, related expenses. David DeGruttola, Landvest’s Forester for the RCF asked to cruise the area with GBA representatives, during the snow season to get a better understanding for the proposed location and any thinning that is being suggested. Tyler Ray suggested getting back to the RFC no later than the June meeting, to revisit this topic with more details. GBA will be formalized as an “activity manager” through a Memo Of Understanding by the June meeting.

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- IV. The Randolph Mountain Club Trails representatives Bob Drescher and Dwight Bradley were on hand to talk about activities on the RCF, which included: the View Shed, the Glades Project, and the Crystal Mine Trail. The RMC is proposing cutting and thinning some view areas of RMC trails on the RCF, which have grown in over the past years. A list of six view spots, which included Castleview Rock, Castleview Ledge, Lafayette View, A view spot from just below Mt. Randolph, and view spots from Soldiers Path and Eye of the Needle. Based on this discussion, Dave DeGruttola recommended the RFC approve this thinning and clearing. Doug Mayer recommended this cutting be approved, and future cuttings to maintain these views as well as any established RMC "View Spots" be approved. Dave Willcox made the second, and the motion carried. It was suggested that the RMC Trails Managers send an email and photos to the RFC to record as views are opened. Should any investment be warranted, the RMC Trails Managers will report to the RFC. Crystal Mine trail is complete and the RMC will due an annual cruise of this trail and the Interpretive Trail to inspect for any necessary capital investment. Doug Mayer will install trail signs on the Crystal Mine trail and a sign at the mine site which warns visitors that it has been designated as a "natural area" by the Town of Randolph, thus making any vandal guilty of a legal misdemeanor.
- V. **John Scarinza asked the RMC Trails Managers to discuss Rollo Falls.** This is a new addition to the RCF, but the existing trail is desperately in need of repair on the last few hundred feet. The intent is to make this area easier to access by people with limited capabilities. John asked if the RMC Trails Crew could possibly work on this trail, so it was completed for the August 2018 Randolph Community Forest Day. This seemed to be an agreeable deadline within the scope of the RMC Trail Crew. The trail was previously cruised and flagged by Carl Demerow. Dave Salisbury was asked to review the trail, see if the

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flagging is still visible, and prepare a budget to do the work over the next 15 months. The RMC Trails managers and Dave Salisbury agreed to return for the June meeting with an update.

- VI. The Conservation Commission officially closed on the two properties in Jefferson, NH, which were approved at the recent Town Meeting, and agreed to be added to the RCF. One parcel is 50 acres, and the other is 88 acres for a total of 138 acres. David DeGruttola was asked to GPS this area and add it to the RCF land maps.
- VII. David DeGruttola brought up a few open items on the Landvest list of projects. He mentioned that he's been talking with John Lanier about permanent wildlife habitat openings and had gotten a better understanding of the Dirt to Trees to Wildlife project. He thought there was an opportunity to enhance beech tree growth, and that there may be an opportunity on the RCF to enhance beech tree growth to encourage bear activities on the RCF. He also had an opportunity to review the Farrar property for some thinning and possible sugar maple tapping in the future. Being close to Route 2 access would be easy, but the area is wet and soft, so a weather-dependent cut would be proposed. He recommended looking at it this Spring, to assess the problem areas and flag them or build appropriate protection. There are also a few trails that meander through, which would need to be protected. A final recommendation on the cutting will be offered to the board at a later meeting. Mr. DeGruttola mentioned that he had viewed one of the two recent acquisitions in Jefferson and that it needed thinning. That might be undertaken in conjunction with a harvest on an adjacent part of the RCF. This would be a sizable harvest and would require an amendment of the Stewardship Plan.
- VIII. David Willcox presented a Note on Water Management in the Randolph Forest for the board's review and approval. This was a followup to the February special meeting with the Trout Unlimited organization. He also presented an outline for the Annual Forest Day event the first Saturday in

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August. Both documents were approved by the Commission for circulation.

- IX. The State of NH Entomologist is participating in a study being undertaken on the RCF by UNH for DRED on the effect of tapping on maple trees. Six plots were designated, with six trees in each plot. Three trees in a control group and three being tapped for maple syrup. Each group of three has a tree from the 6", 8" and 10" or above class. They are measuring the starch samples of each tree, which is a measure of growth. Over time these same trees will be sampled for any changes in starch levels to see if there are any differences in growth between the control group and the tapped group.
- X. Doug Mayer presented a draft of the proposed Randolph Community Forest Grant Application and Guidelines for board review and discussion. Suggested deadlines, fund ranges, timing and other points were discussed and revisions will be brought to a later meeting for final approval.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the Randolph Town Hall.