

DRAFT

THE RANDOLPH FOREST COMMISSION NOVEMBER 13, 2014

Members Present: John Scarinza, Walter Graff and Doug Mayer

Alternates Present: David Willcox

Others Present: Jeremiah Hawkins

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. He asked David to sit for Mark. Then he asked if there were any corrections to suggest for the October 15th meeting. There were none and the minutes were adopted as written.

Jeremiah was then asked to give his assessment of the Randolph Rambles, a trail running race which had been held on the Community Forest on November 1st. Jeremiah said that his impression of the event was very positive. There were about 80 participants, including some well-known trail runners. Some had travelled considerable distances to take part, staying overnight in local accommodations. Many of the people who participated in various capacities, did not previously know that the RCF existed and were glad it discover it.

There had been some concern that the parking spaces at the Randolph Hill trailhead would not be adequate for such a large number of participants. But cars were parked along the sides of the access road, as well as in the parking lot and there was even room between them for an ambulance to enter and leave, had that been necessary.

There were a few complaints that the event did not observe the Leave No Trace (LNT) rules, but it was pointed out the LNT makes special rules for events, and these had not been breached. On the whole, the positive feedback far outweighed the negatives and the Board agreed that the Randolph Rambles should become a regular annual event around the first weekend in November.

John reported that he had met with Dave Fuller and talked about the maple tapping contract. He will use the sample which he used for the first draft of the RFP, as a place to start. He has also had discussions with Bill Carpenter of DRED and the State is now fully on board with the plan to use the RCF tapping project as a test case to study the effect of tapping on smaller maple trees. DRED is going to try to arrange for the study to be carried out by the University of New Hampshire.

John also reported on a visit to the RCF by a group of students from Plymouth State University. It was organized by June Rowan, an erstwhile Randolph resident, who now teaches at PSU. During the visit, it was suggested that PSU might be interested in undertaking a baseline bird survey for the Forest Commission. Further discussions are planned.

The Commission then briefly discussed the responses to the RFP – Foresters which it had sent out earlier in the year. It was determined that four respondents should be asked to come to the Town Hall on February 4, 2016 to make presentations. After that, the Commission would have a better idea of which candidate would be the best fit to succeed Walt Wintturi as the Randolph Community Forester.

There was a brief discussion of the MOU between the Commission and the RMC governing the trail work to be done by the Club at the request of the Commission. The MOU specified that it referred only to the “designated trails.” These were those trails which the Commission considered important for reasons connected with the best interests of the Forest. It was agreed that there should be an appendix to the MOU which listed the “designated trails.”

Before closing the meeting, the Commission considered and approved several invoices which had fallen due:

- a. Seven Oaks Consulting (Carl Demrow): \$728.75
 - For reviewing RMC trail work on Farrar Farm trail
To the Crystal Mine: \$160.00
 - For Flagging alternative routes on the Peek trail (from Randolph hill Road trailhead to Mt. Crescent Trail), pin flagging Farrar Farm Trail and attending Commission meeting: \$550.00
 - For Flagging Rollo Falls Trail: \$178.75

- b. RMC
For work on the Crystal Mine Trail, Peek Path and the Interpretative Trail: \$7597.00
- c. Leo Jellison for mowing wildlife openings along the Pond of Safety Road: \$2240.00
- d. Abenaki Env. Services for work on the Interpretative Trail Guide: \$975.00
- e. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to the Town of Jefferson: \$627.00

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by general consent at 8:45

Respectfully Submitted

David L. Willcox
Acting Secretary

Posted at Town Hall on November 16, 2015