

Randolph Forest Commission

MINUTES

Date: May 6, 2015
Location: Randolph Town Hall
Members Present: John Scarinza – Chairman, Mark Kelley, Doug Mayer, and the Chairman appointed David Willcox to sit in for Walter Graff
Others Present: Edith Tucker, Carl Demrow

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

- I. Minutes of the May 2015 meeting were read and Michelle Cormier, through David Willcox, asked that an addition be made to the minutes. They should reflect the discussion of the fire department's needing to purchase a truck for a forest fire fighting body, which is on indefinite loan from the US Forest Service. The Selectmen's office has asked if the Community Forest Commission would participate in a cost sharing proposal for such a truck. The Commissioners agreed in principle, and will wait for any formal proposals. The minutes were approved with this addendum.
- II. The commissioners reviewed the field trip that occurred earlier that afternoon to Rollo Falls near Bowman Station. Carl Demrow, who accompanied the commissioners on the field trip, addressed the ability to build a trail, compatible with ABA (Architectural Barriers Act) standards. This beautiful location, only 3/4 of a mile from Bowman Station can be a great destination for trips with grand children or older hikers. The recommended specification would be a 4' minimum width up to 6', with a grade that doesn't exceed 8.6%. It would be excavated to below the level of organic material, covered in landscaping fabric, a few inches of sub-base gravel and then finished gravel on top.
- III. Another location that is possible for an ABA compatible trail, is starting at the Mt. Crescent Trail Head leading to the head of the wildlife opening. The grades are not an issue as much as the finished surfaces needed for address ADA concerns. This option will be explored a bit further by Carl to ascertain a budget number.

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- IV. Edith Tucker, attended the meeting to mention that trails to Rollo Falls and the Crystal Mine should be exclusively the responsibility of the RMC, and not a joint venture of multiple organizations. If responsibility is shared, it makes it much more difficult to keep maintenance issues under control. This was taken under advisement by the RFC.
- V. David Willcox brought Carl Demrow to a very large tree in the proposed area of the Crystal Mine trail, as a possible trail linked to the Crystal Mine Trail. It is relatively easy to get to this spot from the Farrar Farm, and make a nice small loop for shorter hikes in that area. Doug asked that Carl be asked to review the work on the Crystal Mine Trail, after it has been constructed, but before final sign-off. This will give a fresh set of eyes on the project, before it's completed.
- VI. Carl Demrow was also asked to look at the new relocation of the trails from the Mt. Crescent Trail Head from the parking lot on Randolph Hill. The original cut of this trail was over some very steep terrain, and concerns were raised some of the rocks are challenging. Two options are either swing the trail further to the West and control the elevation gain, or sent the trail crew back in to deal with the rocks and boulders. The Commissioners suggested that the first attempt be to deal with the rocks and boulders. If some small turns could help improve this, that would be better than relocating the trail this year. This work was part of the budget allocated in the December 2014 meeting.
- VII. Coos County Cycling Club, a local Mountain Bicycling group asked if they could attend a future meeting to discuss the possibilities of proposing some non-motorized uses on the Randolph Town Forest. The commissioners agreed to include them in the July meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday July 1, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Randolph Town Hall.