

Randolph Forest Commission

Draft Minutes

Date: January 4, 2017
Location: Randolph Town Hall
Members Present: John Scarinza – Chairman, Mark Kelley, Doug Mayer, Jeff Parker, and Alternate Member, David Willcox
Others Present: David DeGruttola (LandVest), Tyler Ray and Steve Dupuis(Granite Backcountry Alliance), Dave Salisbury, George Brown, Michelle Cormier,

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM, and appointed David Willcox in place of Walter Graff

- I. Minutes from the December 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- II. Invoices were presented for approval:
 - a. Town of Randolph RCF portion of Legal Fees \$ 548.31
 - b. LandVest, Inc. Consulting Bill \$324.00
 - c. White Mountain Lumber for sign stock -\$172.80
 - d. Doug Mayer for sign paint reimbursement - \$13.70
- III. David DeGruttola of LandVest made a presentation about potential cutting in the Maple Sugar stands prior to phase two of the Maple Sugaring. Given the low price of pulp and chips, requirements for certified wood by many mills, the stress currently being put on trees from the Forest Tent Caterpillar, it is LandVest's recommendation that no cutting be done in this area. However, some potential sites on the North 2A compartments were found for cutting in the Summer/Fall and Winter of 2017. At the same time, potential wildlife openings will be worked into these cuttings. Dave also presented some budget calendar year 2017 figures, which included Road Maintenance, Forestry Services, GIS Services and a Forest Tent Caterpillar Egg Mass Survey for a grand total of \$28,000. These budget numbers actually fall into two town budget cycles. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with the recommended Forest Tent Caterpillar egg mass survey. The motion passed.

Randolph Forest Commission Minutes

- IV. Doug Mayer introduced Tyler Ray and Steve Dupuis of Granite Backcountry Alliance, who made a short presentation on the potential for Backcountry Skiing on the Randolph Town Forest. Tyler explained that a demand is growing among people who wish to ski without lifts, climbing with skins and finding un-groomed trails. A similar group received approval for developing a backcountry ski program in the Green Mountain National Forest. The Forest Service in the Green Mountain National Forest has developed some regulations regarding glade skiing, and the GBA will get us a copy. GBA is currently in discussions with the US Forest Service to develop a program in NH. Some potential sites on the RCF have been explored at the end of Randolph Hill Road parking area for a pilot program. Approval was given to use the 2017 season to go onto the RCF and explore potential sites, locate them on a map, and take some photographs to bring back to a future RFC meeting for further steps.
- V. George Brown attended the meeting to get approval from the RFC before make signs for the roads on the RCF. A list of 23 locations was given to George, and he presented the two styles for trails versus road signs, along with one that had been painted in the previously approved color schemes. The list of names was reviewed and approval was given to build the signs.
- VI. Dave Willcox raised the question about having an event around the first tapping of the maple trees on the RCF this Spring. The committee agreed that it was a good idea and plans should be made to accommodate a simple event.
- VII. The February meeting is being moved to the second Thursday in February. Ron Ouellette will be there to discuss Trout Unlimited's interest in the Israel River Watershed, along with John Lanier,. John Scarinza will check with Ron to confirm that if he can make the meeting at that date and will also invite John Lanier, a retired Wildlife Biologist from the US Forest Service.

Randolph Forest Commission Draft Minutes

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.
The next meeting will be held Thursday February 9, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the
Randolph Town Hall.