

DRAFT

THE RANDOLPH FOREST COMMISSION

November 5, 2014

Members Present: John Scarinza and Jeff Parker

Alternates Present: David Willcox

Others Present: Michele Cormier

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:05 pm. He asked David to sit for Mark Kelley.

The Commission approved the minutes from the October meeting.

Turning to invoices received during the last month, the Commission approved the following:

1. A bill from Chuck Jellison for \$2240 for mowing. He had mowed two wildlife openings and some additional areas.
2. A bill from White Mountain Lumber for \$149.41. These were costs incurred in connection with the trailhead at the new parking lot on Randolph Hill.

John said that he had contacted the Randolph Foundation, which had been holding the \$21,229 raised from the Boothman sisters' benefit dinners and from other sources to finance the new trailhead and parking lot. He had confirmed that the project was complete and the Foundation had made over the money to the Commission and it was now deposited in the Revolving Fund.

The Town had received a letter from a Janeal Hedman, Grants and Gifts Specialist with the US Forest Service. The letter was written to indicate the completion of a cooperative project

between the USFS and the Town. But the heading of the letter referred to the “Master Road Agreement,” as the Project Title. The activities about which she was writing were probably undertaken as a sub-agreement under that title. But to make sure that the closing letter did not refer to the Master Road Agreement itself, David will contact Katie Stuart to clarify the matter.

John had had a discussion with Haven Neal, Town Forester for the Town of Gorham. Gorham proposes to undertake a timber harvest on its Town Forest this winter. But in order to access the site, it will have to cross the Randolph Community Forest on existing logging roads. Those roads involve two stream crossings. The bridge over the southernmost crossing, a span of at least 20’, needs some relocation of the buttresses and a redecking. This bridge might be needed by the Randolph Forest Commission in the foreseeable future. The second crossing is located close to the Gorham Town line. Here, again, a bridge needs repair, but this one is unlikely to be needed by the Forest Commission anytime soon.

Initially, Gorham wanted Randolph to pay the costs of repairing both bridges, but Randolph resisted, pointing out that it had no immediate use for those bridges. After some debate, a compromise was reached: Gorham will undertake to repair the first bridge at a cost of about \$6000 (\$1500 for an excavator, \$3800 for redecking materials and \$700 for labor) and Randolph will loan Gorham the use of one of its portable bridges to use on the second crossing.

Walt is currently working on the language for an amendment to the Stewardship Plan to allow for commercial maple sugaring in compartments 3A and 3B.

The Commission then turned to a consideration of a draft of an RFP which will be needed in the search for a forester to replace Walt Wintturi, who is retiring at the end of the current year. The

draft was approved with a minor addition. David will rework it into a final form and send it to John, who will contact the County Forester, Brendan Prusik, to ask for his help circulating it to licensed foresters in the region.

John noted that Walt had been asked to download the information he had accumulated over the years onto the Town's hard drive, so that it would be available to the new forester. He asked Walt to ask John and Elise to make sure that the hard drive had been updated for this year.

The Town has received the deed for the Moose River headwaters land, which will be designated at Town Meeting next year as Town Forest land. If the Commission will draft the necessary warrant article, Michele said, the selectmen will place it on the warrant.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by general consent at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Willcox
Acting Secretary

Posted at Town Hall on November 10, 2014