

Randolph Forest Commission Minutes

Date: September 3, 2014
Location: Randolph Town Hall
Members Present: John Scarinza – Chairman, Walter Graff, Doug Mayer - Via Skype, Jeff Parker, Mark Kelley
Others Present: David Willcox, Alternate Member,

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

- I. Minutes of the August 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- II. After cleaning up the Ledge Timber sale, a check was issued as noted below. In addition to the \$2,000 bond that was refunded at an earlier meeting, there was a \$1,000 up-front deposit given by Hicks Logging, but never refunded upon completion of the job. A request for this refund was submitted and approved by the RFC.
- III. Walt Wintturi, the RCF forester, expressed his interest in retiring, but he has agreed to remain available on a consulting basis to assist in amending the Stewardship plan to reflect maple sugar production in compartments 3a and 3b, writing the Maple Sugar RFP and bid review. He presented the committee with a proposal to extend his current contract through the end of calendar year 2014. The committee approved the contract extension and discussed the importance of having a forester available on an regular basis. At a future meeting, the committee will develop an RFP and contact the County Forester for input on available candidates.
- IV. Watershed to Wildlife will be dissolving the organization during the Fall of 2014, and expressed in a letter their appreciation for the work done on the RCF over the past 10 years. Given the level of their involvement, they felt this was an appropriate time to downsize. They will be available for some contract work in the future, once insurance matters can be worked out.
- V. Tree Farm Certification - The RCF was selected to be inspected during the summer of 2014. This resulted in the RCF being rectified as a Tree Farm.

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- VI. The Gorham Town Forest is planning a timber harvest during the winter of 2014-2015, which will require using approximately 10,000' of the Randolph Community Forest road, known as the Jimtown Road Extension. Haven Neal, the Forester for the Gorham Town Forest, sent a letter outlining this project, and mentioning that some work will need to be done to three bridges along that section of road. John Scarinza will review this with Haven Neal and report back to the commission during the October meeting.
- VII. John Scarinza read thank you notes from Sally Glines and Becky Parker for the honors bestowed on them during the annual Forest Tour day.
- VIII. Budget Process: This annual cycle is beginning for the next budget. The following categories may need to be added to the current budget categories:
- a. Trail development work and maintenance.
 - b. Farrer Farm improvements
 - c. Israel River management initiatives

John Scarinza and Mark Kelley will meet before the next meeting to review the current budget, year-to-date actual charges, and outline a budget for the next fiscal year for the committee to review.

IX. **Invoices:**

- a. Watershed to Wildlife \$765 for GIS Mapping work, Stewardship Plan Revisions and RCF field day Tour.
- b. Berlin Insulation \$1,700 for bush hog and mowing work during August
- c. Hicks Logging \$1,000 for return of the initial deposit on the Ledges Timber Harvest

X. **Checks:**

- a. Hicks Logging, LLC \$ 1,338.50 for Hardwood and Softwood logs from Ledge Timber Sale in June.

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With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

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