

Randolph Forest Commission

Minutes

Date: September 6, 2017
Location: Randolph Town Hall
Members Present: John Scarinza – Chairman, Mark Kelley, Walter Graff, and Alternate Members, David Willcox and Laura Brockett
Others Present: Michelle Cormier, Kelly Eggleston, Dave DeGruttola, Jeremiah Hawkins

The Chairman called the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM and appointed David Willcox to sit as an alternate for Jeff Parker

- I. Minutes from the July 2017 meeting were reviewed and were approved.
- II. Invoices were presented for approval:
 - a. University of NH Sponsored Programs Administration for the Dirt-to-Trees-to-Wildlife (DTW) program for \$23,261.26
The invoice is covered by a restricted grant for this purpose.
 - b. White Mountain Lumber for \$20.76 for trail posts
 - c. LandVest for management services on the RCF of \$1,637.27
 - d. Smith & Town Printers, LLC for Interpretive Trail Guides of \$349.00
- III. October 29th of 2017 the third annual Randolph Ramble will be run on the Randolph Town Forest. The last two have been well received, organized and an enjoyable event. A motion and a second was made to authorize the event, and it was approved.
- IV. A report by Jeremiah Hawkins was given on the success of the clearing day for the Backcountry Skiing trails. It was well reported in the local papers, had a wonderful turnout, and accomplished the goal for the day. The organization is looking forward to a good initial ski season on the newly improved area.
- V. Kelly Eggleston, of The Natural Resource Council, attended to help discuss plans for the August 2018 Forest Tour Day. One topic for discussion is native pollinators, and the activities on the RCF. A couple of speakers may be available from areas, such as UNH, with discussions about the types of plantings that attract or threaten the pollinators. In the field, work may be done earlier in the season to enhance pollinator plantings to show during the Forest Day. Another topic is Tree Cutting

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and its affect on the northern Long Eared Bat. Both of these presentations could be done in the classroom as well as in the field.

- VI. David DeGruttola made a recommendation for three different timber harvest (Farrar, First Sale, and 2B & Not 2B) on the RCF for the 2017/18 winter season. The Farrar tract should be completed in one season, but the other two harvests may require two seasons to complete. The Farrar and First Sale proposals involve patch cuts, but the 2B or Not 2B is classified as a thinning, by taking out the poorer quality trees to enhance the better wood. This proposal would have a cut-to-length project, where the brush would be cut and laid in the paths for the equipment to run over. The wood is carried out, rather than dragged, which causes less damage. The resulting yield would be as productive, but requires a shorter list of loggers to be contacted. This timber harvest recommendation must be presented to the Planning Board, before it can be approved. This meeting should take place in early October and upon their approval, be available to award after that meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 4, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the Randolph Town Hall.