

**Draft Minutes**  
**The Randolph Forest Commission Meeting**  
**February 16, 2017**

**Members Present:** John Scarinza, Doug Mayer

**Alternates Present:** David Willcox

**Others Present:** David Salisbury, David Degruittola (LandVest), Jenn Scarinza, Tyler Ray (Back Country Skiing) Ron Ouellette (Trout Unlimited), Joe Norton (Trout Unlimited), Rachelle Lyons (Plymouth State University) and Dianne Timmins (NH Fish & Game)

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. He asked David to sit for Mark Kelley.

He then noted that the meeting was being held at this special time in order to discuss water quality on the Community Forest. He explained that there were two main water systems on the Forest: one involved the series of streams coalescing into the Stag Hollow Brook and flowing west into the Israel's River, the other is the upper reaches of the Israel's River itself which is within the Forest or protected by easements donated to the Town. A map was produced to illustrate John's explanation.

A wide-ranging discussion followed. It covered in general two aspects of water management on the Forest: the need for better understanding what species of animal and vegetable life lived in the Forest water bodies and the need for a better understanding of what can and should be done to preserve them and improve their habitat.

Many offers of assistance were made and suggested by the various organizations represented. They ranged from the provision of expertise and equipment to the assignment of student interns to carry out some of

the work that would be involved. But, all of the representatives were agreed that it would be helpful to them to have a statement prepared by the Forest Commission setting forth the Commission's aims with regard to water quality management. With that, it would be easier to come up with specific proposals for assistance.

The Commission agreed to produce such a document and circulate it to all those present.

The Commission then turned to the question of back country skiing. Several of those at the meeting had explored a part of the Forest near Carleton Notch and found it to be a good site for the minimal development needed to create a back country skiing location. The proposal is not to define specific ski runs, but rather to identify an area. Then to put volunteers to work pruning branches and bushes in order to create a series of opportunities for skiers to ski downhill through the trees. Since there would be no defined trail, there would be no need for a permanent buffer zone around it.

The Commission agreed and asked David Degruittola, its land manager, to look at the land in the summer and determine its feasibility for the proposed use.

Finally, the Commission turned to its pending invoices. It approved a payment to George Brown for making trails signs, and a payment of \$150 to Alison Taylor for three months of maintenance of the Forest Commission website.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Willcox  
Acting Secretary

