

# **The Randolph Forest Commission Meeting**

**November 7, 2018**

**Members Present:** John Scarinza, Laura Brockett

**Alternates Present:** David Willcox

**Others Present:** Michele Cormier, Brandy Cappazola

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:04 pm. He asked David to sit for Walter Graff.

John reported a visit from Chris Nelson, a logger in Jefferson who has been asked to do a timber harvest for the Brooks family on the 250 acres they own. Their land is largely surrounded by the RCF, and Mr. Nelson is looking for ways to access it through the RCF. John asked out forester, David Degruttola, to work with him to identify a couple of old skidder routes which might serve the purpose. They will develop a draft agreement which will be brought to the Commission for review, approval and signature.

John also noted that the RMC has completed the job of installing road signs, as requested by the Commission.

The Commission considered and approved the following two invoices:

1. From White Mountain Lumber Co. for \$175.56 for materials used in the road sign project; and
2. From Landvest for \$1415.84. This bill is apparently for work done in early summer. It seems to have been overlooked. It will be paid after review of minutes to make sure that it has not been paid in the meantime.

Michele asked for a clarification of the history in order to answer a query from the Randolph Foundation. A member of the community proposed to make a contribution to the Foundation's land purchase fund, but a question had been raised as to whether there was a need for further contributions to that fund, since the Forest Revolving Fund has a comfortable balance in its "Grants and Gifts" account. The suggestion was that the money in that account was originally raised by the Foundation for the purchase of the Forest in 2001 but was returned to the Forest Commission when not needed for the original purchase; and that, therefore, it should be available for new land purchases before other funds are raised.

It was explained that the money raised by the Foundation for the original purchase was paid to the Trust for Public Land, which was the original purchaser of the Forest from Hancock Timber Resources and other sellers. The Foundation money made up only a part of the funds assembled by TPL for the purpose. When the sale was successfully completed, there was, in fact about \$75-80 thousand dollars remaining which was transferred by TPL to the Forest Commission and was deposited in the grants and gifts account. The Commission used that money to pay for early stewardship plans and other start-up costs. The money now in the grants and gifts account has all been received subsequently and much of it is currently earmarked for carrying on the programs begun under the WHIP grant which expired in 2010 or 2011. Furthermore, because of the language of the special act of the state legislature authorizing the creation of the Revolving Fund, the money in that Fund, whether in the general account or the grants and gifts account, can only be used for "management" activities; it cannot be used for the purchase of land.

David reported that Ron Ouellette told him that Diane Timmins of NH Fish and Game, with a group of interns, had looked at two of the stream crossings on the Pond of Safety Road and will return in the

spring with a larger group to do a more extensive study of the water runoff of the entire valley. When their results are tabulated, Trout Unlimited will arrange for the hydrological and engineering studies to be carried out to determine what sizes and types of culverts are needed where.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted

David Willcox  
Acting Secretary

Posted at Town Hall: November 8, 2018