

Randolph Forest Commission
Minutes
March 1, 2023

Members Present: John Scarinza, Laura Brockett

Alternates Present: David Willcox

Others Present: David DeGrattola (LandVest), Paul Cormier

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:05 pm. He appointed David Willcox to sit for Walter Graff.

Laura made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 1st meeting. David seconded it and it was adopted.

The Commission considered and approved for payment two invoices recently received:

1. From DrummondWoodsum for legal research relating to the protection of Community Forest land not otherwise protected, in the amount of \$334.88
2. From the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests for annual membership in the amount of \$55.00

Paul, a member of the board of AVSAR (Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue) said that he was sorry to see that the litter which had been cached on the Community Forest in the area used for glade skiing had been removed. He was of the opinion that even though it was old and had been retired from use by AVSAR, it could still help to evacuate an injured skier from the area before AVSAR personnel could arrive. The Commission explained that it had understood the removal had been done with AVSAR's approval. So, after some discussion Paul agreed to go back to the AVSAR board for an official determination of the organization's opinion. The Commission agreed to be guided by that opinion.

The commission has received a communication from Katie Stuart noting that there were two bills in the NH legislature which would eliminate state certifications and licensing for various professional occupations including foresters, wetland and soil scientists. The Commission agreed that this was poor

public policy and David said that he would draft a letter for the Commission to send voicing its opposition.

David DeGruttola reported that LandVest had finished its timber harvesting for this year. The ground had begun to soften up and he wanted to clear the site before there was a danger of damage to the Ingerson Road or other roads from the heavy equipment. He said that the Commission would be receiving a check for \$18,726 for 647 gross cords of wood already processed, most of which is hardwood pulp (although it also includes some sawlogs.) 369 cords remain to be processed by the LandVest office in Pittsburg, which can determine the best market for them. Payment will be forthcoming when that has been done.

David DeGruttola is working to iron out a boundary complaint from a Mr. Peterson who owns land abutting the Community Forest in Jefferson. He also spoke to Jake Debow, biologist for NH Fish & Game, who said it has some money (around \$4000) for the creation of a wildlife opening on the Potter tract. It would be handled on a cost-sharing basis. Later in the spring he will join Mr. Debow to determine the best site for the opening.

Laura reported that she has been in communication with Alison who is managing the Commission's website. Some changes are needed due to the requirements of improving technology, and Alison will make them. The most obvious effect will be that only two years' worth of minutes will show in the current file, older ones will be stored in a newly created archive.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by general consent at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted

David Willcox
Acting Secretary