



Randolph Community Forest

Sustainable forestry & traditional uses on 10,000 acres in Randolph, NH

Date: December 6, 2023

Location: Randolph Town Hall

Members Present: Mark Kelley, Laura Brockett, Tim Mather, and Nate Reid

Guests Present: Michelle Cormier, David DeGruttola from LandVest, Bill Arnold, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

Mark Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

I. Review Minutes of November Meeting

On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Tim Mather, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November, 2023 meeting.

II. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

Mark Kelley advised that they received three invoices, one for \$1337.00 for the Jefferson tax bills, one for \$831.00 from LandVest, and one from White Mountain Lumber for removing the yurt and couch in the amount of \$750.00.

B. Payments Received

There were no payments received.

C. Financial Report

Mark Kelley advised the balance sheet is strong. They have over \$400,000, which includes gifts, grants, and the management revolving fund. Mr. Kelley noted that on the year-to-date budget, some items have not been spent yet.

III. Public Comment

Bill Arnold asked about the signs that were stolen from the ski area at Mt. Crescent. Mr. Arnold advised new signs are available and asked when they would be delivered. Mark Kelly stated that he would send a note to Stuart or

Sam to check on delivery. Mr. Arnold asked if the Commission would approve reimbursement for supplies to install the new signs, and was advised that they would. Mr. Arnold also asked about the litter that was taken from the glades and was advised that it will be replaced. Mr. Arnold asked about permits for guides to use the area and was advised that permits are not required. Tim Mather advised that Tyler Ray had spoken to the guides and advised them that carpooling would be necessary and to please come on weekdays, and it has been better since. Mr. Arnold stated that he felt they should pay for a permit, as they are profiting from the use of the area. The Commission noted that overseeing the issuance of permits and enforcing it would be difficult for them to do. David DeGruttola also noted that if the town accepts funds for the use of the area, it may also increase their liability for any injuries to anyone using the property. Mark Kelly advised that there will be a public hearing in March or April to discuss the management of the glades.

IV. Forester's Report

A. Third Stewardship Plan - Update

David DeGruttola advised that they have run into some problems with the switch to new software, which has put them behind. Mr. DeGruttola has been working on the boilerplate and they have started working on collecting data. Mr. DeGruttola advised that it may be submitted after the first of the year. Mark Kelley advised that the plan will have to go to the Planning Board as well.

Mr. DeGruttola asked if the town was still on board with continuing the timber sale and Mark Kelley advised they are. Mr. DeGruttola advised that prices are back up and should stay consistent until spring. Mr. DeGruttola will start putting contracts together. They will need to plow to the first landing to give access to mark the wood.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that NHDOT is leaning toward the Farrar tract for the critter crossing. There is a meeting planned with the Selectboard about the project. Mark Kelley noted that he is not sure there is the data to justify the expense of the crossing.

Michelle Cormier asked about the repeater project and Mark Kelley advised he has been in contact by email concerning the project.

V. 2024 Budget Discussion

Mark Kelley passed out copies of the budget to members. It was suggested that categories should be noted on invoices when submitted to be paid. The budget will be presented to the Planning Board at their meeting tomorrow night, and a Public Hearing will be held on the budget in January.

Michelle Cormier asked about the \$121,965.54 under Coop Road Forest Service, and was advised this was part of the expenses from the bridge project. This project was offset by income through the Randolph Foundation from a grant, and the rest of the project expense is listed under Wildlife Habitat Improvement Grants. Mr. Kelley asked Mr. DeGruttola for some pictures to include with the Town report.

On a motion by Tim Mather, seconded by Laura Brockett, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Forest Commission budget as presented.

VI. Other Business

A. Alternate candidates

Mark Kelley reminded the Board to try to think of others who may be interested in serving on the Commission as alternate members.

B. Signs for P-O-S Parking and Trailhead Parking

Mark Kelley advised that George Brown will do the signs. Mr. Kelley requested that members come up with a list of what signs are needed for the next meeting. It was suggested that the Tree Farm sign be moved to a more visible location, however it may be in the way of plowing. Mr. DeGruttola will think about where this could best be placed. Michelle Cormier also suggested that the kiosk could be located a bit down the trail, as this is common on other trails.

C. John and Mary Brown Donation of Land

Mark Kelley advised that the donation of land from John and Mary Brown is complete. This will protect a number of trails. Mark Kelley advised that he will ask about deeded access for logging, as there is some nice hardwood on the property. It was suggested that a sign be made for the Browns as a thank you for their donation.

D. App for Glades

Jeremiah sent a note advising that the Randolph glades are being included in an app online. There is a collaboration between ski areas that are offering uphill passes, and a list of other areas to ski are included as part of the promotion. Since there is limited parking, this limits the access to the area. The towing of vehicles that are not parked legally was discussed.

VII. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.