



Randolph Community Forest

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

Date: April 3, 2024
Location: Randolph Town Hall
Members Present: Mark Kelley, Tim Mather, Nate Reid, and Walter Graff
Guests Present: Paul Jadis, David DeGruttola from LandVest (via Zoom), and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

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

I. Review Minutes of March Meeting
On a motion by Nate Reid, seconded by Tim Mather, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2024, meeting as presented.

II. Introduction of Paul Jadis as Select Board Representative

III. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

One invoice was received in the amount of \$2,643.75 from LandVest. This includes the boundary work to finalize the adjustment of the western line with Wayne Peterson, checking the winter road, and the monthly meeting.

B. Payments Received

One payment was received from LandVest in the amount of \$41,466.11, for revenue from this winter's timber sale. David DeGruttola advised another check should be coming in May.

David DeGruttola noted that they may want to look at other timber harvest opportunities in the management plan that they could complete in one season. There is more to do on this year's harvest, however they may want to wait for a winter with a lot of snow to come back to this section. Mr. DeGruttola will look at other options to bring to the Commission.

C. Financial Report

IV. USFS Pond of Safety Road Agreement

Mark Kelley advised this agreement is updated every five years. Mr. Kelley stated that he has read through the contract, and noted that it was rewritten as Randolph Town Hall, as this is the way the payment is set up in SAM, and the contract must match. Mr. Kelley noted that he also asked them to add June Hammond Rowan as a signer. Once the agreement is approved, and signed by Mark Kelley and June Hammond Rowan, it will be sent back to USFS for them to sign.

V. Backcountry Skiing

Mark Kelley noted that he did go up to the parking area three times after the last storm and did not notice any problems, however he did receive emails and phone calls about cars speeding by and parking problems. Mr. Kelley advised that he sent a note to Tyler Ray asking why they did not have an ambassador there, and Mr. Ray stated that the ski season is over. Mr. Kelley reminded Mr. Ray of the upcoming Planning Board hearing. Ways to handle parking, signage, and plowing were discussed. It was suggested that parking be limited to a certain number of vehicles, and when that limit is reached no others would be allowed. The Commission will wait to hear the public comments at the meeting next week and then discuss the issue again.

VI. Signs

a. P-O-S Parking & Trailhead Parking

Mark Kelley advised that he is supposed to hear from Mr. Doyle in April about these signs.

b. Small signs to be painted by George Brown – Update

Mark Kelley advised that he has picked up the signs from Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown stated that he donated his time, and the AMC donated the use of their shop to make the signs. The only cost is the materials. Walter Graff will send a thank you note to Mr. Brown. Mr. Kelley advised that the signs will be stored in the Farrar Farm garage until they can be installed.

VII. EMS Communication Tower

Paul Jadis advised that he has spoken with June Hammond Rowan about the tower, and he will meet with Fire Chief Phil Cloutier. Mr. Jadis asked if there was a possibility of putting the tower in the original proposed location and Mr. Kelley advised there was not. The location chosen will allow the tower to be shorter, between 30-50 feet, and the property can be taken out of the Randolph Community Forest's management at the next Town meeting and given back to the Town. David DeGruttola asked if pins would need to be set, and Mr. Kelley

stated he did not believe so, as it will still be owned by the Town. Tim Mather reminded the Commission that they will need to reflect the cost of the work for the tower in the budget.

VIII. Northern Forest Center

Mark Kelley advised that he was contacted by Julie Renaud Evans asking to attend a meeting. She would like to get a group together from the area Town Forest Commissions to meet and compare information.

IX. Farrar Farm Wildlife Crossing

Mark Kelley advised that he will send a letter with the Commission's approval to move to the next step. Mr. Kelley advised that a condition of this will be no fencing, either now or in the future, and that the Forest Commission will not be responsible for any maintenance. Mr. Kelley suggested that a walkway through the culvert would be a good idea, to connect the properties for pedestrians.

X. Forester's Report

a. Third Stewardship Plan

Mr. DeGruttola advised that he reviewed the email received from June Hammond Rowan concerning the stewardship plan. Mr. DeGruttola advised he will match the spreadsheets to the maps, however property that they hold easements on should not be included as they are still privately owned.

Mr. DeGruttola addressed Ms. Hammond Rowan's concern as to whether the inventory was for the entire acreage, and advised that the entire 11,205 +/- acres were reviewed, however high elevation areas, wildlife openings, and earlier cuts were not included. The data is for 8,134 acres of manageable timber land.

Mark Kelley advised he will get the information on revenue generated by the Maple Tap lease. The RMC has been contacted for the number of miles of trails. Mr. Kelley will also provide the contact information for the Activity Managers.

Future plans for the Farrar Farm tract, buildings and infrastructure, will not affect the Stewardship Plan being approved by the State, and may be something that is added later.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the conservation easements should be a separate document, as they do not manage that land.

It was noted that insurance certificates are not held for any of the Activity Managers. It was suggested that the Activity Managers be asked to add the Town of Randolph as an additional insured on the Certificate of Insurance and provide a copy to the Town.

b. Logging on Farrar Farm

Mr. DeGruttola stated that he would be reaching out to Brian Lamarre tomorrow about logging some blow down at the proposed EMS tower site.

The RFC easement monitoring tour was on March 11. This is the annual tour required under the terms of the easement. Mr. DeGruttola advised that he was unable to attend, but someone did attend in his place. Mr. DeGruttola advised that he does not anticipate any problems.

XI. Other Business

a. Workbook of Randolph Forest Procedures

Mark Kelley advised that he has been working on this and is hoping to have an outline to share at the next meeting.

XII. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.