



Randolph Community Forest

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

- Date:** June 5, 2024
- Location:** Randolph Town Hall
- Members Present:** Mark Kelley, Laura Brockett, Tim Mather, Nate Reid, David Willcox, and Walter Graff
- Guests Present:** David DeGruttola from LandVest, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

Mark Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

I. Review Minutes of March Meeting

On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Nate Reid, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2024, meeting as presented.

II. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

Two invoices were received. One in the amount of \$1,848.07 from LandVest for April work. The other from the Town of Gorham for a tax bill for the Potter land in the amount of \$5.97.

B. Payments Received

Two payments were received from LandVest, one in the amount of \$27,284.79, and the other for \$16,779.76, for revenue from this winter's timber sale. David DeGruttola advised these payments were for the saw logs and veneer. Nate Reid asked what type of logs were used for the veneer, and Mr. DeGruttola advised sugar maple, yellow birch, white birch, and occasionally white ash. Mr. DeGruttola advised there is a new market for yellow and white birch for baseball bats. Mr. DeGruttola advised that he would like to be able to get one of the bats made from wood from the Randolph Community Forest to display in Randolph.

A payment was also received from Fuller's Sugarhouse in the amount of \$32,711.39, which is for 25,757 taps at \$1.27 per tap.

Mark Kelley advised that a letter was received from the Town of Jefferson advising they would be billing semi-annually for taxes, and that bills would be mailed mid-May and due July 1. Mr. Kelley advised the bill was not received and he would contact them in reference to this.

C. Financial Report

Current total assets are \$422,163.53.

III. Plans for 2024 Forest Day, August 10, 2024 (One week later)

Mark Kelley advised that they are planning to talk about the logging this year and to walk part of one of the transects.

David DeGruttola advised that he contacted Brian Campbell and received a quote for the work on the transects, which he could do late August. Mr. DeGruttola advised that he has staff that could do the work on one transect for the Forest Day before August 10. It was suggested that Elise Lawson should be asked about which transect would be easiest to do. It was suggested that just 100-200 feet would need to be done for the visit.

IV. Water Issue on Road to Reservoir

Mark Kelley advised that they visited the area with the water issue. They would like to wait one more year to see if the issue happens again. It was suggested that they pull the culvert and widen the opening. Other options include using a bridge, or concrete blocks with timber mats on top.

David DeGruttola advised he would speak to Clint Savage and the snowmobile club about the snowmobile bridges that need replacement. Tim Mather asked

if this was in the agreement with the snowmobile club, and was advised that it was.

V. Backcountry Skiing – Next Steps

Tim Mather advised that the Planning Board is putting together the Findings of Fact and drafting a letter to send to GBA to end the current agreement. Laura Brockett asked if GBA could be asked to remove the Mt. Crescent glades from their website, and it was noted they have other areas listed on their website that they do not manage.

VI. EMS Communication Tower

Mark Kelley, Laura Brockett and Tim Mather met Tuesday with the Fire Chiefs from Gorham and Randolph, the Gorham Town Manager, Paul Jadis, June Hammond Rowan, and everyone was in agreement that the proposed area would work. The Gorham Fire Chief will get information to them on the size of the base needed and the fence size. They are still looking for a contractor to do the salvage work, and are hoping the money earned from the salvage will cover the cost of the road and other work needed. It was suggested that a lot line adjustment could be done, as they will not need the entire parcel of land for the project, and the rest could remain part of the Farrar Farm property.

VII. MOU Discussion

- a. Snowmobile Club
- b. Presidential Gem
- c. Randolph Mountain Club
- d. Backcountry Ski Area
- e. Fuller Maple Sugar

Mark Kelley advised that the Commission should look at each MOU over the next few months to see what needs to be updated.

VIII. Signs P-O-S Parking and Trailhead Parking

Mark Kelley advised that the signs have been installed at the end of Randolph Hill Road and at the Pond of Safety Parking lot. The materials and time were donated. Mark Kelley advised that he did get a picture with David Doyle for the Mountain View. Ideas for thank you gifts were discussed, and maple syrup from Fuller's Sugarhouse was suggested.

IX. Forester's Report

a. Repair Estimate for Pond of Safety Road and other Road Projects

Mr. DeGruttola advised that he received an estimate of \$21,000 for the work needed on the Pond of Safety Road, Hunter's Pass Road, and the culverts on Jimtown Road.

b. Other Projects

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the NH State Division of Forests and Lands has not reviewed the stewardship plan yet, as they are focused on the management plan for Aurora Sustainable Timberlands which covers much of northern NH. They can operate under the old plan until the new one is approved.

X. Other Business

Mark Kelley advised that combination locks will be installed on the gates instead of key locks. Each gate will get a different combination and the combinations can be changed as needed. Mark Kelley advised that they have a key for Jimtown Road gate from Gorham.

XI. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm by general consensus.

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