



# Randolph Community Forest

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

**Date:** August 7, 2024  
**Location:** Randolph Town Hall  
**Members Present:** Mark Kelley, Laura Brockett, Tim Mather, Nate Reid, and David Willcox  
**Guests Present:** Paul Jadis, David DeGruttola from LandVest, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

Mark Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- I. Review Minutes of March Meeting  
On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by David Willcox, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2024, meeting as presented.
- II. Financial Review
  - A. Invoices Received  
Four invoices were received. One from Smith and Town Printers for signs in the amount of \$40. One for White Mountain Lumber for the padlocks for gates in the amount of \$251.91. Two invoices from Landvest, one in the amount of \$1,923.36 for monthly work, and one in the amount of \$7,500.00 for part of the Forest Management Plan Update.
  - B. Payments Received  
Two payments were received from LandVest, one in the amount of \$3,540.65, and the other for \$1,191.21, for revenue from this year's timber sale. David DeGruttola advised the total value year-to-date for this year's timber harvest was \$99,000. Mr. Degruttola noted that 65% of the timber harvested was pulp wood, 2% veneer, 11-12% saw logs, and 12% pallet logs.
  - C. Financial Report  
Mark Kelley noted that they had budgeted \$146,000 in anticipated income, and the actual income so far is \$132,000.

Mark Kelley advised that the American Forest Foundation sent a letter informing them that dues would increase by \$6 for the January bill.

III. Plans for 2024 Forest Day, August 10, 2024 (Agenda)

Forest Day is scheduled for 9 am on Saturday. There will be three speakers, each ½ hour. David DeGruttola advised that he plans to speak about logging, and about the weather, touching on the winter temperatures and rain events. Elise Lawson will talk about the transects and their potential usefulness and Jason Hill, an ornithologist from Vermont will speak about his 14 years of carrying out bird surveys on the RCF.

IV. Forester's Report

David DeGruttola advised that JML will be starting work on the Pond of Safety Road and will work east from there, hitting things that need to be done. DeGruttola asked if the Commission would like the end of Hunters Pass to remain passable or to restrict access to vehicles, as they will need to install water bars to stabilize. David Willcox suggested that they should talk to the Forest Service about this first. Laura Brockett asked if restricting access would violate the Stewardship Plan, and Mr. DeGruttola advised that they would still allow foot and bicycle traffic, just not vehicles. Mr. DeGruttola noted that the cost to repair roads after rain events is significant. David Willcox advised that he will contact the USFS about sharing the cost of the road work, if they have money left in their budget.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that they plan to start the timber sale for salvage but are waiting on the market to stabilize. There is someone interested in doing the work.

Mr. Degruttola noted that he has not had a chance to talk with Clint Savage about the Jimtown Road bridges.

Mr. Degruttola advised that it is not necessary to brush out the transects, as the Elise Lawson is not going to try to walk them, just discuss them from the road.

Mark Kelley advised that he received a call from Jason Hill from Vermont, who has been doing a bird study on the Community Forest for the last 14 years. Mr. Hill requested access to continue. He will also be coming to the Forest Day to discuss it.

David Willcox suggested planting a white birch tree in memory of Roberta Arbree, on the same plateau as, and to the right of the bench for John Scarinza.

It was suggested that memorial trees only be allowed when it is for someone who has made a significant contribution to the Community Forest. David DeGruttola suggested that a water bladder be purchased when it is planted, which will provide water until the tree is established.

V. Maple Lease Modifications for Farrar Tract

David DeGruttola advised that he will get a new map of the maple lease area when it is reviewed.

Mark Kelly noted that Fuller will provide a private label for the Randolph Community Forest on their maple syrup and shared a draft of the label. These will be used as thank you gifts when needed.

VI. RMC MOU Revisions

Tim Mather advised that the Planning Board discussed the Activity Manager agreements and noted that they all need to be reviewed. At the meeting, June Hammond Rowan suggested that they be reviewed by the Town Attorney. Mather questioned whether the Planning Board or the Forest Commission would be responsible for drawing up the agreements, and David Willcox agreed that it should be the Forest Commission, and the Planning Board would give the final approval. Willcox noted that the RMC currently has two contracts, one for the trails they already had, and another for the trails that the Forest Commission wanted built and maintained. Willcox advised that he is willing to work on this. Mark Kelley suggested that they review one per month and will start with the RMC in September.

VII. Gem Society Update

Mark Kelley advised that the Presidential Gem and Mineral Society will present a report at the September meeting. There is currently one sign missing and they are willing to replace it.

VIII. Other Business

Mark Kelley advised that there was an exhibition on the first 150 years of Randolph, and there will be another on the last 50 years. It was suggested that the Community Forest be included. Items that could be displayed include the crystal from the library, a framed map, maple syrup, and a collage of photographs. Kelley will forward information on this to the members.

Laura Brockett asked if the right-of-way by the Water Wheel has been opened yet and David DeGruttola advised it has not been.

Mr. Degruttola advised that they also still need to choose the location for the wildlife opening on the Potter property.

IX. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm by general consensus.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.