



Randolph Community Forest

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

Date: March 5, 2025

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, June Hammond Rowan, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

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

David Willcox, alternate member, was appointed to sit in for Walter Graff, who was absent.

I. Review Minutes of February Meeting

On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Tim Mather, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2025, meeting as presented.

II. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

Four invoices were received. One from Alison Taylor for internet service in the amount of \$267.00. One from LandVest, which included the marking and layout for the Little Ledge sale for \$11,677.90. An invoice was received from the American Forest Foundation for the Tree Farm status, which is based on acreage, in the amount of \$211.54. An invoice was received from The Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and the suggested membership amount is \$75.00.

On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by David Willcox, the Commission voted unanimously to submit payment in the amount of \$75.00 to The Society for the Protection of NH Forests for the annual membership.

It was noted that the completed Stewardship Plan, approved by the State of New Hampshire, was received, and Laura Brockett will post it on the website.

B. Payments Received

A check was received from LandVest for the Bowman Treasure in the amount of \$11,792.00.

David DeGruttola advised that this is the first of a few payments, as the revenue generated year-to-date by Bowman Treasure and Little Ledge is \$17,794.00, and there will be more to come.

C. Financial Report

Mark Kelley advised that the current balance in Gifts and Grants account is \$280,000, and the Revolving Fund has just under \$150,000.

III. Planning Board Questions

A. Attorney Reassignment

June Hammond Rowan advised that Christine Fillmore Johnson will no longer be the attorney representing Randolph, and the Commission discussed alternatives for legal representation. Several firms were mentioned and both Mark Kelley and Hammond Rowan will call to see what their fee structure is and if they are able to take on the Town's work. David Willcox suggested that it would be more convenient to have someone close by, and Hammond Rowan noted that it would be helpful if they were familiar with Land Use Planning and Zoning. It was also suggested that Julie Evans from the Northern Forest Center be contacted for recommendations.

B. Activity Manager Agreements

June Hammond Rowan advised that they do have signed copies of the Activity Manager Agreements, however many are several years old. The Commission agreed to look at them one by one, and Hammond Rowan suggested that as soon as an attorney is found the agreements be reviewed. It was suggested that the two agreements with Randolph Mountain Club be combined into one.

C. Fuller Lease Consolidation

June Hammond Rowan noted that when she last spoke with the attorney it was suggested that the Fuller lease be restated and amended. The lease is currently made of three parts, which include the original area, the area added due to damage, and now the Farrar tract. The lease is for 15 years, to end in 2031.

D. Crystal Mine Warrant

June Hammond Rowan asked about the Crystal Mine warrant article, and it was noted that the RSA listed in the Land Use Ordinance is incorrect. This

will be left as it is for now and will be corrected with an amendment next year.

E. Grants and Gifts Account

June Hammond Rowan advised that she did some research into the Grants and Gifts account and provided the Commission with a spreadsheet of revenues and expenses. It was noted that some of these gifts were made for specific purposes, and it is not a capital reserve account. The money coming in for projects should be spent. Hammond Rowan advised that going forward, any grants or gifts should be accepted by the Planning Board. Hammond Rowan will check with Linda Dupont to see what has been expended and where it came from. Paul Jadis noted that the Trustees of the Trust Funds have done a good job with investing money in reserve funds, and Mark Kelley agreed that they should have an investment strategy.

IV. Forester's Report

A. Annual Conservation Easement Review

David DeGruttola advised that he met with the State of NH Forests and Lands and NH Fish and Game for the monitoring tour, and they were impressed with the effort to create wildlife habitat.

B. Salvage Cut at Farrar Farm Site

David DeGruttola advised that the Little Ledge sale is completed, and the Farrar tract will be done before April 1.

C. Other Business

Mr. DeGruttola stated that they are making plans for road work on Jimtown Road.

Mr. DeGruttola also suggested that to protect the infrastructure, they should consider gating the road off of the Pond of Safety Road where they are doing the logging. This area will be blocked off for now. This would mean that they would purchase three gates, two to install and one for reserve.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the forest product market is in turmoil due to the recent tariffs.

Paul Jadis advised that the initial proposal for the radio tower site was unclear, so they requested a list of responsibilities for each town. They did hear back from Chief Cloutier in February, and the \$21,000 requested for cement work and a fence at the site was included in the original grant. Randolph will be donating the land and will maintain the road. Jadis advised

that if the excavator is there when they are ready to do the work, they are welcome to use it as well.

Paul Jadis also commended the Forest Commission for stewardship of the Town Forest.

V. Backcountry Skiing Update

It was suggested that another public hearing be held as a follow up on the parking area for the glades once they have an idea of how they want to proceed. Several members indicated that they would like to see the area open again next year and several ideas were discussed to make that possible; including defining the parking spaces, moving the rocks to make plowing easier, designating parking for local residents only, and better signage. It was noted that if they did open the parking area again, and it was a problem, they could close it again. The Commission will contact Jeremiah Hawkins to attend an upcoming meeting. The Commission will also need to decide on a management plan for the glades.

VI. Other Business – RMC Peeko Folsom Bridge

Mark Kelley advised that the Peeko Folsom Bridge over Carlton Brook was washed out in December of 2023 and will need to be replaced.

VII. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm by general consensus.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.