



Randolph Community Forest

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

MINUTES

Date: May 3, 2023
Location: Randolph Town Hall
Members Present: Laura Brockett (Zoom) Nate Reid, Mark Kelley

Guests Present: David Willcox - Alternate (Zoom), Michelle Cormier, David DeGruttola, LandVest

Mark Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

- I. David Willcox was asked to sit in place of Walter Graff.
- II. The members participating in the meeting made a motion to appoint Mark Kelley as Chair and Laura Brockett as Vice Chair of the Forest Commission. The vote was unanimous, with Mark abstaining on a vote for Chair and Laura abstaining on the vote for Vice Chair.
- III. Minutes of the April 2023 meeting were reviewed, and approved.
- IV. **Expenses:**
 - a. LandVest - \$512.10 for work done in March regarding Right Of Way (ROW) research, deeds, and letters to landowners, bridge project and discussions with RCF.
 - b. Alison Taylor - \$ 308 for website management and 3 year hosting fees.
 - c. DrummondWoodsum Attorneys At Law - \$141.68 Town Forest correspondence with Mr. Scarinza regarding property and driveway questions. This was later corrected to reflect only \$92.00 was attributable to the Town Forest, while the remaining balance was Planning Board related.
- V. Right-of-Ways - Mr. Snyder of Dream View Acres had a conversation with David DeGruttola about the right-of-way on his property held by the Randolph Community Forest. The intent is to open it up, although there are not current plans to harvest that portion of the forest. The forestry right-of-way is for use during the months of November to March, so there are options for the maple sugaring season as well as logging. There is more to explore, since we have not heard back from the owners of The Water Wheel Restaurant.



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- VI. Update on Winter cut - In May, we should receive a check for \$5,654.83, on 47.51 gross cords, which represents a larger mix of sawlogs over pulp and biomass. 56% came from sawlogs, so the per cord value this month is higher. But of the total 28.122.95 on 806.83 gross cords cut this winter, only 7% was sawlogs, and 93% is pulp and biomass, which lowers the average price per gross cord. The plan is to improve the stand with more sawlogs by thinning the existing pulp and biomass quality material.
- VII. One member asked how many gates are on the RCF. At present, there are six: Farrar Farm gate to the field, Jim Town Road, Bowman, Pond of Safety, and two on the Deerfly Road. They are all keyed alike, and the known holders of keys are: LandVest, USFS, Town of Randolph, and Mark Kelley picked up two from Jenn Scarinza that belonged to John, which totals 5 copies.
- VIII. David DeGruttola briefly update everyone on the bridge project for road to Pond of Safety set to go forward this Spring. The contractor who had originally agreed to install the bridges has had some misfortunes over the Winter and will not be able to do the job. David D. asked to reach out to another contractor who had walked the job for a bid, and he would get back to the board at the next meeting. NH Fish and Game strongly recommends the work must be done between May to September to avoid the hatching period in the Spring and the spawning period in October. The bridges are ready to ship, when the contract for installation is signed. This contract should be ready for the June meeting.
- IX. A brief discussion of the LandVest contract and fee schedule was brought up with two options. The committee agreed to review the materials provided for discussion at the June meeting.
- X. David DeGruttola mentioned that there were a number of tasks that John Scarinza used to organize himself, such as: road side mowing, mowing of the permanent wildlife openings, and opening/closing the Pond of Safety gate each season, which we have to coordinate. David said that LandVest is happy to coordinate any or all of them, he just needs the board's approval. David Willcox suggested we put together a list of annual tasks that must be coordinated by LandVest or the board, so nothing gets overlooked. In addition to the ones mentioned above, there are boundary line maintenance, transect clearing, monitoring the Rollo Falls and Crystal Mine trails, and cutting the fields at the Farrar Farm after the middle of August. These are just a few that were remembered, so having a list would be very helpful.



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- XI. Forest Day 2023 - This annual event, which typically takes place on the first weekend in August is scheduled for August 5. The days events are coming together and an agenda will be ready for the July meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM. The next gathering will be held Wednesday June 7, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Randolph Town Hall.