

Town of Randolph

Planning Board Minutes

February 11, 2021

Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Members Present: John Scarinza, Tim Mather, Robert Ross, John Turner, Kevin Rousseau

Members Excused: None

Public Present: None

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by John Scarinza.

Approve Minutes of January 7, 2021

On a motion by Robert Ross, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 7, 2021 as submitted. Mather – aye, Ross – aye, Rousseau – aye, Turner – aye, Scarinza – aye

Public Hearing

John Scarinza opened the public hearing at 7:07 pm on the Forest Commission budget. Scarinza reviewed the balance sheet dated December 31, 2020, and advised that it has not changed much since that date as there have been no projects or large bills. In reviewing assets, Scarinza stated that the balance in grants and gifts is \$281,923 and the balance in the Management Revolving Fund is \$220,246. Scarinza noted that these are two distinct accounts, one with donations for specific activities and the other for wildlife habitat work. Scarinza reviewed the budget, advising that each year there are placeholders that may or may not be used, but if they are not included in the budget, they would not be available if needed to spend. Under income, there is \$20,000 for Maple Tapping Fees, which is paid by June 1. There will not be any Timber Revenue this year, as they have decided not to do a cut due to low timber prices. Scarinza advised they are currently working with NRCS and the Randolph Foundation to replace and improve 4 stream crossings on the Pond of Safety Road. Income of \$208,443 is listed, as this is money they will get back from the federal government when the project is completed. This gives a total income of \$228,443. When asked about timing for the project on the Pond of Safety Road, Scarinza advised it will depend on when the engineering work is done, and advised they will be removing the culverts and replacing them with bridges. In reviewing expenses in the budget, Scarinza noted that many lines have been adjusted down from last year. Timber Sales Administration is down to \$10,000, from \$12,000 last year. Timber Layout has been reduced from \$8,000 to \$4,000, and road maintenance is also reduced by half to \$5,000. Maple Lease Administration is the same at \$1,500. Under General Maintenance, Boundary Line has been reduced by \$1,500, however Parking Construction has been

budgeted at \$6,000 as they need to create a turnaround at the parking area at the end of Randolph Hill Road. Scarinza advised it has been very congested, with the parking area intended for 16-20 vehicles, and as many as 40 being there last weekend. Parking Maintenance, Gates, and Brush Cutting are all budgeted the same as last year. Scarinza advised they did make a small parking area this year by the Farrar pit, as this is a popular bird watching spot. They will be installing a farm gate this spring, and also took some granite blocks to make a bench by the river. Total General Maintenance is \$32,500. The Farrar Farm Site is budgeted at \$3,000, as the house has been removed, and this money will be used to remove a chicken house that is in the woods. Stewardship has been reduced to \$1,500, however Education has been increased to \$3,000 to better reflect costs. They were not able to hold the Forest Day last year. Website Maintenance and Small Grants are the same as last year. There is \$225,000 budgeted for WHIP Grants, of which \$208,443 will be reimbursed by the NCRS grant. The work must be done and inspected before they are reimbursed. Grant Writing and Mapping are both the same at \$1,000, and Meeting and Consultations has been increased to \$2,500. The total Expenses are \$243,000. Trail Work is budgeted the same as last year at \$2,500, as is the PILT payment at \$8,200. The PILT payment is paid to the town of Jefferson and Randolph at the current use rate. The total expenses are \$306,700.

Robert Ross asked about access to the Pond of Safety this summer and John Scarinza advised it will depend on when the work on the culverts is done. Scarinza advised that the bridges being installed are 16 feet wide. John Turner asked if the bridges were pre-made, and Scarinza advised there are a couple types. They already have one ADM folding bridge that will be used, which comes in one piece and has a built-in guardrail. The other type is from a company in Maine and comes in paneled sections.

On a motion by Robert Ross, seconded by John Turner, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to accept the Forest Commission budget as presented. Ross- aye, Mather – aye, Rousseau – aye, Turner – aye, Scarinza - aye

John Scarinza closed the Public Hearing at 7:31 pm.

John Scarinza reminded the Board that they have one land use item on the ballot. Scarinza advised that Kevin Rousseau has filed to run for Planning Board Scarinza also advised that that he did not file in time, but will accept write-in votes to continue as a member of the Board.

Adjournment

On a motion by John Turner, seconded by Robert Ross, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. Mather – aye, Ross – aye, Rousseau – aye, Scarinza – aye, Turner – aye

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

February 12, 2021