

# Town of Randolph

## Conservation Commission

### Minutes of March 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:** Gary Newfield, Jennifer Barton-Scarizza, Walter Graff, Nathan Peters, Lauren Bradley (Selectmen's Rep)

**Members Excused:** None

**Public:** John Scarizza, Robert Potter, Roberta Arbree, John Berry, and Mary Berry

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Gary Newfield

#### **Public Hearing**

The Commission discussed the donation of land from John and Mary Berry to the Town of Randolph, with the intention of it being added to the Randolph Town Forest. John Scarizza described the parcel, which contains 102.2 acres situated on the north side of Durand Road, within the town of Randolph, New Hampshire and further described as Map # R-11 Lot 13 on the tax map. John Scarizza advised there is a woods road that the Berry's have kept mowed for a number of years that is used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Lauren Bradley noted how grateful she is to the Berry's for donating the parcel to be added to the town forest and opening the land for town use. John Scarizza noted that once the parcel becomes town forest land, they can spend money generated from the forest to maintain the land, and will make sure the road is mowed each year. Scarizza advised they will also have the Town Forester go in to take a look at the timber stands. Scarizza advised the Berry's had a management plan, and the parcel will be added to the Town Forest's stewardship plan. It was also noted that upper Carlton Brook is a water source for several houses. Scarizza advised the Randolph Opportunity Fund will help with legal costs, and since the spring for the Berry's homestead is located on the parcel, there will be an easement included to protect that. Scarizza advised that the Berry's would like to have this completed this calendar year, so if the Conservation Commission approves this tonight, it will go next to the Selectboard's meeting, and then as a warrant article at the Town Meeting this year, which has been moved to June 1. Scarizza advised that when the land becomes part of the Town Forest, there is a payment in lieu of taxes made to the town. The land will be appraised at its highest and best use.

**On a motion by Jennifer Barton-Scarizza, seconded by Walter Graff, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the donation of land to the Town of Randolph from John and Mary Berry, 102.2 acres situated on the north side of Durand Road, within the town of Randolph, New Hampshire and further described as Map # R-11 Lot 13 on the tax map, with the intention of adding the land to the Randolph Community Forest.**

The Commission thanked the Berry's again for their donation, who advised they bought the land from the Boothman Estate to protect it from development, and this will continue what they wanted. John Scarinza will check in with the Trust for Public Lands.

The Commission discussed the donation of land from Robert Potter and Roberta Arbree, trustees of the Robert C Potter Trust. John Scarinza described the parcel, identified as Map # R-11 Lot 34 consisting of 218.12 acres in the Town of Randolph and Map # R-3 Lot 8 consisting of 26.62 acres located in the Town of Gorham (adjacent parcels). The land contains a gravel pit, beaver dam, and thousands of feet of shoreline on the Moose River. Roberta Arbree stated that it is wonderful piece of land that borders both sides of the rail trail with beautiful views of the mountains. The land is currently under a conservation easement held by NH Fish and Game, and language will be added to the deed for this to continue. Gary Newfield noted that there is also a Neolithic site that is on the property, which Roberta Arbree advised has national recognition. Lauren Bradley thanked Arbree and Potter for donating the land, which is such a wonderful part of Randolph. John Scarinza stated that this parcel of land will be a special part of the stewardship plan of the Town Forest, with its own priorities. Gary Newfield asked if the state would still be responsible for the rail trail, with the Town owning land on both sides, and John Scarinza advised they would be. Robert Potter advised that the town would need to maintain access from Route 2, as several people have a right of way along the road to the campsite. John Scarinza advised this would not be a concern, and he is confident they can figure out all the details.

**On a motion by Gary Newfield, seconded by Jennifer Barton-Scarinza, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the donation of land to the Town of Randolph from Roberta Arbree and Robert Potter, trustees of the Robert C Potter Trust, identified as Map # R-11 Lot 34 consisting of 218.12 acres in the Town of Randolph and Map # R-3 Lot 8 consisting of 26.62 acres located in the Town of Gorham (adjacent parcels), with the intention of adding the land to the Randolph Community Forest.**

Lauren Bradley advised that the donation was already discussed at the Selectboard meeting, but will be formally voted on at an upcoming meeting. The warrant article to add this land to the Town Forest will be presented at the town meeting next year.

Gary Newfield advised that the Conservation Commission can have five members, so if anyone knows someone who would like to join, to please let him know.

Walter Graff thanked John Scarinza for his work on these donations of land.

**Adjournment: On a motion from Gary Newfield, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

March 12, 2021