

Town of Randolph

Planning Board Minutes

February 10, 2022

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

Members Excused: None

Public Present: None

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by John Scarinza.

Approve Minutes of December 28, 2021

On a motion by John Turner, seconded by Kevin Rousseau, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 28, 2021 as submitted.

Public Hearing

John Scarinza opened the public hearing at 7:04 pm on the Forest Commission budget. Under income, there is \$12,000 for Forest Product Sales, which is the projected income for the small harvest behind the Farrar Farm site, which produced some ash, beech and white birch. There is \$22,000 for Maple Lease Income, up \$2,000 from last year, as they have added several thousand taps. The price per tap goes up a percentage each year, and is now around \$1.05 per tap. Scarinza advised there is \$208,000 from a NRCS grant through the Randolph Foundation to replace and improve 4 stream crossings on the Pond of Safety Road. The replacement bridges will either be folding steel bridges, or concrete decks on steel beams. They will be installed from bank to bank so that they will not need to work in the stream. They were not able to do this work last summer due to a delay in the engineering work, but hope to complete the project this summer. With the grant, the total income is \$242,000.

In reviewing expenses in the budget, Scarinza noted that Timber Layout is budgeted at \$4,000, which is for the forester marking trees and roads for any harvests. There are no big harvests planned, just some salvage work left. Road maintenance is budgeted at \$10,000. Maple Lease Administration is the same at \$1,500, and covers the cost of the Forester checking the taps. Last year some were moved further east due to the damage from the caterpillars. Timber Sales Expenses is budgeted at \$3,000. Legal Expenses is budgeted at \$3,000 this year. Last year \$4,828.50 was spent on legal fees for the deed work on the land donated by the Berry's and the Potters. Under General Maintenance, Coop Road Forest Service is budgeted at \$2,000, as the maintenance of the Pond of Safety Road is shared with the USFS. Boundary Line has been increased to \$5,000, and they did have the opportunity last year to do 5 miles of the boundary line for a total of \$7,670.53. Scarinza noted that they do not have a Capital Reserve Fund for the Forest Commission, so money is not carried over the following year in the budget. Parking Construction has been budgeted at \$6,000 as they still need to create a turnaround at the parking area at the end of Randolph Hill

Road. Scarinza advised the parking area will not allow for overnight parking, and will have signs posted with hours. Parking Maintenance is budgeted at \$2,000 and Gates at \$12,000, as they are hoping to move the gates up further at Bowman. Scarinza advised the line for Brush Cutting needs to be increased from the \$10,000 budgeted to \$21,500, as the invoice from last year was not received until January. Stewardship is budgeted at \$5,000, as the parcels that were donated have to be incorporated into the forest management plan. Education and Research is budgeted at \$2,500 for the Forest Tour. Website Maintenance and Small Grants are the same as last year. Small Grants can be used for any project that would benefit the Town Forest. Farrar Farm Site is budgeted at \$1,500. Habitat Planning is also budgeted at \$1,500, and Scarinza advised they mowed down an area by the Pond of Safety that was harvested several years ago to allow for new trees to grow. They also have cut some other small parcels to create wildlife openings. Habitat Improvement Grants includes the money from NRCS grant for the stream crossings, along with some additional money for additional work on the road. Grant Writing is the same at \$1,000, and Mapping has been increased to \$1,500. Meetings and Consultations has been budgeted at \$2,000. Trail Construction and Trail Maintenance Work is budgeted the same as last year. Conservation Easement Monitoring has been added at \$2,000, as the Forest Ordinance was amended to allow the Forest Commission to monitor smaller easements. The PILT payment is \$8,000, which is paid to the town of Randolph and the town of Jefferson at the current use rate.

On a motion by Robert Ross, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Forest Commission budget, with the additional \$11,500 in the Brush Cutting Line.

John Scarinza closed the Public Hearing at 7:40 pm.

John Scarinza advised the Board that the Planning Board budget includes \$3,000 for consulting work, as Tara Bamford will need to update the application for subdivisions now that the regulations have been updated.

John Scarinza advised that Tim Mather has filed to run for another term on the Planning Board.

The next meeting will be held in March, as they are required to meet every month. If the town attorney is available, a law update will be scheduled for April.

Adjournment

On a motion by John Turner, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

February 11, 2022