

Randolph Forest Commission

May 4, 2022

Members Present: John Scarinza, Walter Graff, Laura Brockett

Alternates Present: David Willcox

Others Present: David Degruttola (LandVest) and Michele Cormier

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He asked if there were any changes needed in the April minutes. There were none and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

John and David Degruttola reported on progress with the four bridges project for the Pond of Safety Road. A deposit of \$80,000 was paid from the Forest Revolving Fund to Dirigo Bridge Company to enable it to begin building the bridges.

On Friday, David D. will walk the sites with his LandVest foresters and will then schedule a second visit in order to show the sites to the contractors who may want to bid on the earthwork needed to install the bridges when built by Dirigo.

David D. has completed the baseline documentation needed for the Parker easement (which includes the Boothman Spring behind the site of the old Mt. Crescent House. This is the second easement held by the Town for which the Forest Commission has monitoring responsibility. (The other being the Beringer easement.) There was a discussion of the need to establish a paper file in the Town Hall containing the easement documents. It was also agreed that David D. would arrange for an annual survey of the easement properties to make sure they continued to observe the easement conditions.

David D. has also completed a deed review of the properties behind and adjacent to the Water Wheel on Route 2. He confirmed the fact that the Town owns a right of way leading to the one (also owned by the Town) which crosses the Water Wheel. He proposes to send a letter, with a copy of the deed showing the r-o-w to the owners. He also suggested that it might be a good idea to bush hog the r-o-w in preparation for its potential use and as a way of underscoring the existence of the Town's right.

Walter reported on his discussions with the company that has indicated an interest in contracting with the Town for the carbon credits which the Community Forest might potentially provide. He has been referred to a new company representative named Tommie Elder. She has, however, been insistent that the Town needs to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) before she could present it with a proposal. Walter has pointed out that being the agency of a public municipality, the Forest Commission cannot sign an NDA, since all its meetings are open to the public, and the information on which it would base a decision would also have to be open to the public. He noted that Charlie Levesque, who introduced the idea that Randolph should consider carbon credits, also failed to find any municipality involved in the program which has signed an

NDA. Walter reiterated his suggestion that she present the Town with a proposal which indicates how it would benefit, without any of the secret company methodology. She seemed unconvinced and the question of whether or not she will come to the Commission's June meeting remains up in the air.

David W. made the suggestion that a large sign reading "Randolph Community Forest" be made and posted on the side of the Garage/barn on the Farrar Farm. It might be modeled on the "Broadacres" sign on the Penney barn, which is easily seen by cars passing by.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Willcox
Recording Secretary

Posted at Town Hall: May 5, 2022