



Randolph Community Forest

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: April 5, 2023
Location: Randolph Town Hall
Members Present: Laura Brockett, Mark Kelley

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

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

- I. David Willcox was appointed to sit in place of Walter Graff.
- II. Minutes of the March 2023 meeting were reviewed, and approved.
- III. **Income:**
 - a. LandVest - \$18,726.46 for hardwood pulp and sawlogs from Winter logging operations
 - b. LandVest - \$3,741.66 for hardwood pulp and pallet logs from Winter logging operations
- IV. **Expenses:**
 - a. LandVest - \$5,937.13 for January Services mostly related to Winter logging operations.
 - b. LandVest \$2,710.94 for February Services mostly related to Winter logging operations and easement monitoring with Maggie Machinist.
- V. Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue sent a letter to the RFC in support of keeping a Rescue Litter at the Back Country Skiing area. There was some question as to who has removed the litter that was on site, and concern that it was not appropriate to have there. This letter shows the need for such a valuable piece of rescue equipment, and it should be brought back in the future. In the meantime, AVSR is trying to locate a second litter for the same area. Mark Kelley will reach out to Tyler Ray of Granite Backcountry to let him know the RFC has authorized the rescue litter(s) to be kept in the glades.
- VI. Third Stewardship Plan Revisions - David Willcox started off the discussion with draft of the Purpose and Goals Section, which included suggested changes by David DeGruttola. The Commissioners approved the document to be included in the development of the Third Stewardship Plan. In addition to the original



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property included in original easement, the Stewardship Plan will include all parcels currently managed by the Randolph Forest Commission. David DeGruttola will use this document to begin revising the rest of the plan, and bring it back to the Forest Commission for approval and next steps.

- VII. A discussion about an old yurt that was left on the Town Forest, and had been usable until a few winters ago, when the canvas collapsed and it now may be a danger. Mark Kelley will visit the site with Bill Arnold to discuss what steps should be taken to remove the remains of the yurt. At the same time, an old couch was found on RCF Property near the gate on Randolph Hill. At the same time the yurt is removed, the couch will be taken. Michelle Cormier said the town should be able to arrange for a AVRRDD transfer station pass for these items.
- VIII. David DeGruttola briefly update everyone on the bridge project for road to Pond of Safety set to go forward this Spring. With road bans are in place until mid-May, frost in the ground under the road, and brook trout spawning in late September, it leaves June though early September for these bridges to be put in place. He will be contacting the manufacturer and construction team to coordinate this project and keep it on schedule.
- IX. David DeGruttola presented two letters for approval to be sent to the owners of property connected the the RCF deeded Right-Of-Way in Jefferson adjacent to the Water Wheel Restaurant. This was an established logging road that has been used in past years to access RCF lands in this area. Upon approval by the Forest Commission, David will send these letters by Certified Mail, to confirm receipt, and provide an update at the May meeting of the Commission.
- X. A brief discussion of the LandVest contract and fee schedule was tabled until more members of the Commission were present to review and make any decisions on modifications to this document.
- XI. Pond Of Safety Road Agreement - David Willcox mentioned that the five-year agreement between the Randolph Forest Commission and the USFS for maintenance to the Pond Of Safety road is up for review and approval for another five years. He will circulate the existing agreement to all the commissioners for review and discussion at the May meeting. A tentative meeting has been set for June 9th with the Josh Sjostrom of the USFS, to meet, review the agreement, tour the road and move the agreement forward for approval. It was also mentioned that the Bailey Bridge that was given to RCF is still on the inventory of the USFS. Mr. Sjostrom needs to make arrangements for



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a formal transfer, and details will be worked out June 9th. David Willcox will circulate the road agreement for the members to review for discussion at the May meeting. Further details will follow at the May 3 meeting of the RFC.

- XII. Forest Day 2023 - This annual event, which typically takes place on the first weekend in August is scheduled for August 5. The event will begin at the Town Hall with a presentation and follow with a field trip to the Community Forest. This year, the intent is to present a review of the past 20 years, from inception to current state. It was suggested that David Willcox and John Scarinza give the audience a historic perspective and David DeGruttola touch on the Forest and Wildlife practices that have take place over that time. The field trip will most likely take place on the Pond of Safety road, so the public can see some of the improvements two wood stands, wildlife clearings and the new bridges that have been installed. Further discussion will continue at the May meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next gathering will be held Wednesday May 3, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Randolph Town Hall.