

Town of Randolph

Planning Board Minutes

February 1, 2024 - draft

Members Present: June Hammond Rowan, Robert Ross, Tim Mather, John Turner, William Demers, and Kevin Rousseau

Members Excused: None

Public Present: Nathaniel Adams and Shelli Fortin, Minutes Taker

1. Call to Order

June Hammond Rowan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

3. Review of Minutes

On a motion by Robert Ross, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2024, meeting as presented. Demers-abstain

4. Communications to the Board

A new mileage reimbursement form is available for members who have to travel for the Board.

5. Report of Officers and Committees

a. Selectboard

There was no report from the Selectboard.

b. Randolph Forest Commission

Tim Mather advised there will be a Zoom meeting in two weeks with the engineering firm working on the wildlife crossing. They will address some of the concerns addressed at the recent meeting.

6. Applications

No new applications were received.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. Other Business

a. 2024 Land Use Ordinance Amendments

June Hammond Rowan passed out copies of the proposed Land Use Ordinance Amendments. The amendments will be on the ballot and in the warrant sent to the

State of NH with one text, and listed in the Warrant published in the Town Report with another, with a note about additional information available. Land Use amendments must done by ballot vote. The Board agreed with the wording and June Hammond Rowan will get them to Linda.

b. Planning Board Member Terms

Kevin Rousseau and June Hammond Rowan both have terms expiring this year. They will both file again to run for the Planning Board.

c. Hazard Mitigation Plan

June Hammond Rowan advised that the Town is working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and she will attend one of the next meetings. The Board should take a look at it when it is done. John Turner advised they are looking at the old plan and updating it step-by-step with anything that needs to be changed.

d. Proposed Tower and Antenna for Emergency Services

June Hammond Rowan advised that the proposed location for the radio tower has been moved and is now proposed on land that was originally owned by the Town that is now part of the Randolph Community Forest. It was suggested that this land be given back to the Town as a place for the tower. Hammond Rowan advised that there was concern about the plan having to go before the Planning Board for approval, however there is a statute concerning governmental use of land, NH RSA 674:54, that would just require them to inform the Planning Board with written notice 60 days prior, and the Board would make non-binding comments about conformity or non-conformity with the Land Use Ordinance. They would not have to go through a typical site plan review. The statute states that you may have a public hearing, however it is not required.

The tower has been adjusted in size from 80 feet to 50 feet, and is just for emergency services radio communications. Robert Ross asked if there would be a flashing light and Tim Mather advised there would not be one required. The Forest Commission has offered to clear the land and build a driveway, as the grant will not pay for this work. The grant is for the tower and radio equipment only. June Hammond Rowan stated that she would like to see the cost for this work in the Town budget, not the Forest Commission budget, as it is not a Forest project. A concern was shared about the maintenance, and it was noted that all three towns pay a share of the maintenance costs.

e. Other

June Hammond Rowan reminded the Board that in April they will hold a public hearing on the management of the ski glades, the Forest Management Plan, and the Agreement with WMNFS.

Robert Ross noted that in years past, the Board met with the attorney in April to review any changes in the law. June Hammond Rowan suggested that they do this in May.

9. Public Comments

Nathaniel Adams asked if the Town of Randolph is immune from State and Federal Anti-Trust laws which limit access to consumers for services. June Hammond Rowan advised that the Planning Board has broad authority through statutes. The Planning Board can suggest amendments to the Land Use Ordinance every year, depending on what they hear from the public or see happen in surrounding communities. June Hammond Rowan advised that the purpose of zoning laws is to protect health, safety, welfare, and limit nuisance factors. For example, Ms. Hammond Rowan advised that they would not be able to say they did not want a specific business in town, but could say they did not want any restaurants with drive-ins.

William Demers informed the Board that he will continue to serve as an alternate until another member is found, but will resign when they do find one.

Robert Ross thanked June Hammond Rowan for the experience and organization that she brings to the Board, and noted that it is appreciated.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Kevin Rousseau, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

February 2, 2024