

Town of Randolph

Planning Board Minutes

March 7, 2024 - draft

Members Present: June Hammond Rowan, Robert Ross, Tim Mather, and Kevin Rousseau

Members Excused: William Demers and John Turner

Public Present: Kathleen Kelley and Shelli Fortin, Minutes Taker

1. Call to Order

June Hammond Rowan called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Roll Call

The Board thanked John Turner for his years of service to the Planning Board as the Selectman's Representative.

3. Review of Minutes

On a motion by Kevin Rousseau, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 1, 2024, meeting as presented.

4. Communications to the Board

There were no communications to the Board.

5. Report of Officers and Committees

a. Selectboard

There was no report from the Selectboard. Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

b. Randolph Forest Commission

Tim Mather advised that the Stewardship Plan is almost done. The final draft should be ready next week. Mather advised it is a well thought out, comprehensive plan. Mather noted that the Forester stated that he is pleased to be working with the Town of Randolph, as it is a healthy, model forest.

6. Applications

Information was shared with the Board on a proposed lot line adjustment for the Weatherly property, Map R11, Lot 7B will be split between Lot 7A and 7-1. The owner will be contacting a surveyor. The property has no road frontage on Pasture Path.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. Other Business

a. Community Power Program

Kathleen Kelley explained the Community Power Program to the Board, which will give Randolph local control of energy costs. The vote will be held at Town Meeting on March 12, and if the townspeople vote in favor, they will move forward with the electric aggregation plan as drafted. Kelley advised that several towns in Coos County are moving in this direction, with about 30% of the towns in NH participating. Kelley noted that they wanted to add a paragraph in the policy concerning the goals for the Town of Randolph. The proposed paragraph reads:

“The Town of Randolph has expressed support in it’s Master Plan for energy conservation and renewable energy sources. Randolph Community Power recognizes that the Town’s Master Plan also states that “it is important to encourage energy alternatives while making sure they do not conflict with Randolph’s scenic aspects and views or traditional land uses,” and we will work to ensure that our objectives do not conflict with the Master Plan.”

The Board agreed to the use of this paragraph for the goals.

Objectives for the Community Power Program include: lower rates, consumer protections, public advocacy including net metering, cleaner local power, and resilience.

Kelley explained that Randolph can stop participation at any time before the cost sharing agreement, however, after that agreement it could take up to 36 months to end it. Citizens can opt out anytime. Kelley advised bills will look the same and still come from Eversource.

b. Proposed Tower and Antenna for Emergency Services

June Hammond Rowan advised that she contacted Fire Chief Cloutier in Gorham concerning the proposed tower and antenna. Cloutier advised that he is waiting to hear from the Town of Randolph before moving forward. Hammond Rowan will send an email to Gorham and to the Randolph Selectboard concerning this project.

Hammond Rowan noted that the Forest Commission budget should be revised to include the cost for the road to the antenna. Hammond Rowan stated that the Forest Commission should get credit for helping the town as a whole.

c. Hazard Mitigation Plan

June Hammond Rowan advised that she did attend the last meeting for the Hazard Mitigation Plan via Zoom. Hammond Rowan noted that the Hazard Mitigation Plan should be referenced in the Master Plan at some point. Items to be explained in the plan are driveway access and steep slopes, and something to consider in subdivision or site plan reviews is a cistern for fire department use. Kevin Rousseau advised that the Fire Department can call for assistance from other towns. The Board noted that there

was a dry hydrant on Valley Road, which is no longer usable due to the water level, and there were plans for one on Pine Mountain. They do have the fire pond at Lowe's and water is available at Ravine House in the summer.

d. Rumble Strips on Route 2

June Hammond Rowan advised that NHDOT will be holding a hearing on the proposed rumble strips on Route 2. Hammond Rowan noted that there has been concern about the noise and the effectiveness of strips. Hammond Rowan shared a letter that she drafted to NHDOT noting the concerns about noise impacts, safety for bicycles, and passing zones at Appalachia parking lot.

On a motion by Robert Ross, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted to approve the letter to NHDOT sharing concerns about the rumble strips on Route 2. Rousseau - abstain

e. Other

June Hammond Rowan reminded the Board that in April they will elect a Chairman for the Board as well as hold public hearings on the management of the ski glades, the Forest Management Plan, and the Agreement with WMNFS. The May meeting is planned for training on new laws with the Town Attorney.

Robert Ross suggested that one or two alternate members be considered for the Board.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Robert Ross, seconded by Kevin Rousseau, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelli Fortin
March 8, 2024