

# Town of Randolph

## Planning Board Minutes

May 2, 2024 - draft

**Members Present:** June Hammond Rowan, Robert Ross, Tim Mather, Michele Cormier, William Demers, and Kevin Rousseau

**Members Excused:** None

**Public Present:** Attorney Christine Johnston (via Zoom), Tara Bamford (via Zoom), Jeremiah Hawkins, Gary Newfield, Paul Cormier (via Zoom), and Shelli Fortin, Minutes Taker

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

3. Review of Minutes

**On a motion by Michele Cormier, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2024, meeting as presented.**

4. Communications to the Board

Communications were received in reference to the backcountry ski glades on the Randolph Community Forest and will be shared at that time in the meeting when the glades are discussed.

The State Office of Planning and Development is holding a conference, and interested members can attend.

5. Report of Officers and Committees

a. Selectboard

Michele Cormier noted that they have met with Gorham in reference to the communications tower, and have drafted an MOU. The tower will be located at the alternate site, not at the Farrar Farm.

Cormier also noted that they have had problems with beavers plugging up the drain at Durand Lake. Gary Newfield advised that there used to be a fence around the drain. They have also had problems on Baillargeon Road, and are looking to get a trapper.

b. Randolph Forest Commission

Tim Mather advised that Elise Lawhon attended the last meeting to discuss the transects in the Randolph Community Forest. They are trying to get some interest in their use.

6. Applications

There were no new applications.

7. Public Hearings - none

8. Other Business

a. Board Training with Attorney Christine Johnston

Attorney Christine Johnston reviewed recent court decision, legislative updates, and the ordinance on short-term rentals, along with the Planning Board's role with the Randolph Community Forest. June Hammond Rowan suggested that any agreements or donations of land should be reviewed by the Town attorney. Michele Cormier noted that there is money budgeted for legal advice, and it is an important tool to use.

b. Activity Manager for Backcountry Glade Skiing on Randolph Community Forest

June Hammond Rowan advised that letters or emails were received from Samantha Twombly at GBA, Jeremiah Hawkins of the Randolph Society for the Advancement of Backcountry Skiing, Joan Ostergren, and Paul Cormier in reference to the glade skiing.

Hammond Rowan advised that there have been questions about why the Planning Board held the Public Hearing, and she shared a list of the responsibilities of the Planning Board to do with the Forest Commission.

Tim Mather advised that the Forest Commission did vote to recommend terminating the contract with GBA. The Forest Commission had expected a low impact, non-commercial use of the area, and it has become something different than anticipated.

Hammond Rowan noted that the Planning Board could discuss this again in June, which would still give time for the six-month notice required before the ski season begins. This will give the Board time to consult with the Town Attorney, to create their Findings of Fact, and to draft a letter to GBA. Each Board member was asked to create their Findings of Fact, and get them to Hammond Rowan to be compiled and reviewed before the next meeting.

If the contract is terminated, the Forest Commission will need to create a list of expectations, and can put out an RFP for an activity manager. It was suggested that an agreement should be renewed each year, rather than one that must be cancelled.

Hammond Rowan shared the use data and economic impact report that was provided by GBA. It was noted that the current agreement with GBA is on the Randolph Community Forest website.

William Demers noted that if they cancel the current agreement, there is no Plan B. It was noted that the Forest Commission could re-negotiate with GBA for a new agreement, or make an agreement with another group.

Gary Newfield asked about enforcement for any agreement, and was advised that is something for the Forest Commission to discuss.

c. Planning Board Alternate Members

The Board discussed possible alternate members.

d. Other

June Hammond Rowan advised that Dennis Pednault is looking to build on a lot on Durand Road. Mr. Pednault has some questions about the steep slopes and driveway regulations.

Hammond Rowan advised that NHDOT has had a bid opening for the rumble strips on Route 2, and are planning to begin late July. Shelburne has also written a letter with similar concerns to the one Randolph's Planning Board sent.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

**On a motion by Kevin Rousseau, seconded by Robert Ross, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

May 3, 2024