

Town of Randolph

Planning Board Minutes

February 6, 2025 - draft

Members Present: June Hammond Rowan, Robert Ross, Tim Mather, Michele Cormier, William Demers, Todd Ross

Members Excused: Kevin Rousseau

Public Present: Shelli Fortin, Minutes Taker

1. Call to Order

June Hammond Rowan called the meeting to order at 6:57 pm.

Todd Ross was appointed to take the place of Kevin Rousseau, who was absent.

2. Roll Call

3. Review of Minutes

An email was received from Jennifer Scarinza requesting to amend the minutes of the December 5, 2024 meeting relative to the comment she made during the public hearing in December. June Hammond Rowan suggested the following wording to the last paragraph about the public hearing:

Jennifer Scarinza commented on the owner-occupied requirement under Short-Term Rentals, and disagreed that it would be necessary to have the requirement for owner-occupancy be three consecutive months. Edith Tucker agreed. Hammond Rowan advised that the owner occupancy requirement is only for when there is more than one unit on a property and the amendment does not say that it needs to be consecutive months.

On a motion by Michele Cormier, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted unanimously to amend the minutes of the December meeting as presented.

On a motion by Robert Ross, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted to accept the minutes of January 2, 2025, as presented.

4. Communications to the Board

June Hammond Rowan advised that she sent an email link to members for a Transportation Safety survey.

5. Report of Officers and Committees

a. Selectboard

Michele Cormier advised that the Town Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 10, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. Cormier noted that the legal expenses are in one line, but have been segregated to make it easier to identify what is for the Town, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Board.

June Hammond Rowan asked if Michael Cote has come to the Selectboard concerning the road being accepted by the Town, and Cormier stated that he has not.

b. Randolph Forest Commission

Tim Mather shared that three wildlife biologists from NH Fish and Game attended the meeting last night to discuss the moose population and beavers. They are hoping to have them back for Forest Day. Elise Lawson also attended to discuss wildlife projects planned for this year, including transects, wildlife openings, and habitat buffer areas.

Mather also advised that Edith Tucker attended the meeting with concerns over the parking area on Randolph Hill Road not being open this year for use. Ms. Tucker requested that a committee be formed to come up with a way to open it again. Hammond Rowan asked how the traffic has been in the area this year, and Mather advised it seems quiet. There have been people skiing.

Hammond Rowan asked about moose, as there have been lots of tracks. Mather noted that Walter Graff shared photos of two in his yard at the Forest Commission meeting.

6. Applications

There were no new applications.

7. Other Business

a. Planning Board Email

June Hammond Rowan noted that they do have a new planning board email address, planning@randolphnh.gov. This is the original email that was forwarding to John Scarinza. William Demers asked if there was access to prior emails, and Hammond Rowan advised there is nothing prior to the new system, but they will look into this. Robert Ross suggested that this email be included in the Town Report, and it was also suggested that it be added to the Mountain View and Blizzard.

b. Planning Board Rules of Procedure

Hammond Rowan noted that although they adopted the new rule concerning the Planning Board Chair at the last meeting, in reviewing the rules a Public Hearing is required. Hammond Rowan suggested waiting until another hearing is needed before scheduling this. Hammond Rowan also suggested that the requirement for a public hearing also be amended, to follow state law.

c. Radio Antenna Project

Hammond Rowan noted that there was another site visit a few weeks ago. Michele Cormier advised that the Selectboard is unsure of the commitment required from each community, and this needs to be spelled out in a Memorandum of Understanding before they move forward. Hammond Rowan noted that Gorham will need to come before the Board with a presentation, however since it is a governmental use of the land, any comments on the proposal by the Planning Board will be non-binding. Tim Mather noted that he has been approached by abutters with questions, and Hammond Rowan suggested that the abutters be notified of the hearing as a courtesy.

d. 2025 NH Planning and Land Use Regulation Books

Hammond Rowan passed out new copies of the NH Planning and Land Use Regulation books to members.

e. Land Conservation in Randolph

Hammond Rowan advised that David Willcox has offered to come speak to the Planning Board about land conservation in Randolph. This will be scheduled later this spring.

f. Other

Robert Ross noted that the Town will need a new Moderator after this year's Town Meeting, and asked members to think of people who may be interested. Michele Cormier asked if the Selectboard could appoint someone if nobody runs, and will check into this.

William Demers noted the passing of Robert Leclerc.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled for March 6, which is the same day as the GRS Cooperative Annual School District meeting. It was decided that if there is no new business, the meeting will be cancelled, and if there are any items the meeting will be rescheduled.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Tim Mather, seconded by June Hammond Rowan, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelli Fortin
February 7, 2025