

**Minutes**  
**Randolph Forest Commission**  
**May 7, 2025**

**Members Present:** Mark Kelley, Tim Mather

**Alternates Present:** David Willcox

**Others Present:** Paul Jadis, Elise Lawson, David DeGruttola, Judy Kenison, Kelly Eggleston

The chairman opened the meeting at 6:35. After appointing David Willcox to sit for Walter Graff, he asked if the members had read the April minutes and if anyone had any changes to suggest. No one had. David W. moved that the minutes be adopted as written and the motion was adopted.

At the chairman's invitation, Judy Kenison explained that she owned land abutting a section of the Community Forest. That land was currently flooded because of beaver activity on the Community Forest land. She asked for permission to hire a trapper to remove the beavers causing the problem. David D. explained that because this was not an official "trapping season," the only trappers who could legally do that job would be those specially licensed as "nuisance trappers." They could – and would – charge a hefty fee, whereas if Judy could wait until fall, after the season started, hobby trappers would be glad to do the job, probably for nothing.

The Commission members, recognizing that they have a responsibility of care to neighboring landowners, voted to approve Judy's request.

The Commission then took up its financial matters. It had received two invoices:

- a. From Brochu Nurseries for \$543, being the cost of a white birch to be planted on the Community Forest in memory of Roberta Arbree and Bob Potter; and
- b. From LandVest for \$1262.90 being normal monthly management expenses, largely involving the Farrar Farm

It had also received two checks:

- a. From the Ashley family for \$611.05, being reimbursement to the Commission for the costs of preparing a well use agreement; and
- b. From LandVest for \$27,145.29, being some of the revenue realized from the Little Ledge timber sale.

The next item was a request from the RMC for landowner permission to allow it to undertake maintenance on the Mt. Crescent Trail. The Commission voted to give the chairman the authority to sign whatever documents are necessary to give the RMC the needed permission.

David DeGruttola then gave his forestry report. He said that after a thorough examination, and a conference with NH Fish & Game, he has concluded that the Potter tract is not a good site for a wildlife opening. There is already a good deal of open land around it.

But he had some thoughts about wildlife openings that he wanted to discuss with Elise. There were two possible sites that he thought worth considering. One, on the Deerfly Road, where there is already open land, which could be converted into a permanent opening fairly easily. The other is along the Jimtown Road, east of the parking lot, where there are, as yet, no openings. The spot he

was suggesting is adjacent to the Ice Gulch Trail, just north of the Road. Elise recognized the spot and agreed that it should be considered.

David also suggested that when mowing the openings, in future we should not mow the edges every year, but only on a 2 or 3 year cycle, so as to promote diversity in habitat.

David also reported that he had sent out a number of RFPs for the three gates that the Commission needed. He had only received one reply. That one was from Curt Cloutier, who does business in Gorham as Rotten Rock Welding & Fabrication, who quoted a price of \$7650 per gate, or \$22,950 for the three. The Commission voted to accept this quote and approve the purchase.

Finally, David noted that he still had to make arrangements to start a regular schedule for keeping the transects open. He discussed with Elise which ones should receive priority. They agreed that the work should start with those most likely to be attractive to “citizen-scientists,” utilizing the I-Naturalist program which Elise set up for the Commission last fall.

It was reported that the work on the site for the emergency communications tower on land adjacent to the Farrar Farm was almost completed.

Mark then noted that the Androscoggin community forest collaborative had scheduled a field trip to the Randolph Forest on June 17<sup>th</sup> between 3:00 and 8:00 pm. It would first visit the Little Ledge sale site. David said the way this timber sale had been carried out was a prime example of how to use a timber harvest to promote good wildlife habitat practices. The group would then move on to visit the Farrar Farm to look at the knotweed problem there.

Turning to the question of what to do about glade skiing this winter, the Commission decided to plan a quiet opening with no fanfare. It hoped that this would avoid the problem of overuse which characterized its management under the Granite Backcountry Alliance. There would be no public hearing this year, but one might be scheduled next year to test the community’s reaction to the winter’s use.

Finally, the Commission considered the question of the Annual Forest Day. It was suggested that David D. and Elise might give talks in the Town Hall. They thought the subject of climate change and the associated dangers posed by a number of invasive insects and plants might be appropriate. These dangers affect the Community Forest and private back yards equally. Afterwards, a field trip to the Farrar Farm might have two purposes: the formal opening of the Community Forest Memorial Grove, with the dedication of a tree to the memory of Roberta Arbree and Bob Potter; and a discussion of a proposed major effort to stabilize the banks of the Israel’s River.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by general consent at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Willcox  
Acting Secretary