



# Randolph Community Forest

*Sustainable forestry & traditional uses on 10,000 acres in Randolph, NH*

- Date:** June 4, 2025
- Location:** Randolph Town Hall
- Members Present:** Mark Kelley, Laura Brockett, Tim Mather, David Willcox , and Walter Graff (6:42)
- Guests Present:** Paul Jadis, David DeGruttola from LandVest, Joel White, Edith Tucker, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

Mark Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm.

David Willcox, alternate member, was appointed to sit in for Nate Reid.

- I. Review Minutes of May Meeting  
On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Tim Mather, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2025, meeting as presented.
- II. Financial Review
  - A. Invoices Received  
An invoice was received from the Town of Jefferson for the biannual tax bill, however there is a question about the amount. Mark Kelley will contact them on Thursday to clarify.

**On a motion by David Willcox, seconded by Tim Mather, the Board voted unanimously to approve payment of the Jefferson tax bill, pending clarification on the amount due.**

Other invoices received include: the Gorham Tax Bill in the amount of \$6.01, an invoice for the deposit for the gates from Rotten Rock Welding Company for \$11,475, the LandVest April bill in the amount of \$1,152.90. an invoice from Smith and Town Printers for signs in the amount of \$444.00, and an invoice from Elise Lawson, Watershed to Wildlife, for work in March and May for \$525.00. Members signed the invoices to approve them to be paid.

B. Payments Received

Two checks were received. One from Fuller for the maple tap lease in the amount of \$37,212.50, and one from LandVest in the amount of \$25,379.76.

III. Farrar Farm Japanese Knotweed Problem – Joel White

Joel White advised that he visited the Farrar tract to observe the knotweed problem, and that it will be a big job. Mr. White noted that there is a lot of knotweed, and some in places not easily accessed. Mr. White advised that the area behind the building is close to a small stream and an old well and will require a special permit from the Division of Pesticide Control. There is also some on the east side of the building and on the left-hand side of the parking lot, which will need to be roped off as they will not want people driving over it. On the other side of the highway, the area at the bottom by the gate will be difficult terrain to work on. Mr. White noted that there are dead trees on top, which David DeGruttola advised his crew could take care of.

Mr. White advised that the knotweed should be cut as soon as possible, in June. The knotweed will be cut with a scythe to avoid spreading. He will return between flowering and the first frost to apply glyphosate spray, which interrupts the ability of the plant to take up nutrients from the soil. Mr. White advised that it will be a multi-year process to control it. The areas of application will need to be roped off to keep people from accessing it after spraying. Mr. White advised that this is only until it dries, which can be as quickly as an hour depending on the weather. Mr. White advised that he adds a blue dye to the pesticide to help see where he is working. The dye is not harmful.

Mr. White provided an estimate of \$4,000 for the work.

On a motion by David Willcox, seconded by Laura Brockett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the estimate of \$4,000 from Joel White of North Country Invasives Services, LLC, for the knotweed control on the Farrar Farm tract.

Laura Brockett suggested that information about the project be included in the Randolph weekly to inform residents of the work.

Mr. White noted that Randolph does have a problem with knotweed, and suggested that the project be used as an educational tool for the community. It was noted that a discussion on invasive species and how they change the ecosystem could be included in Forest Day.

IV. Forester's Report

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the road has been completed for the tower site, and gravel was used from the Farrar tract. Sod was scraped off and set to the side, as there were concerns with the ground being soft for the trucks entering. Mr. DeGruttola will bring some winter rye seed to put on the sod. JML will pick up the wood on the landing for firewood. A gate will be installed to keep vehicles from using the roadway.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the Little Ledge site will be closed out by the end of June or beginning of July.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the next timber sale site, beyond the Little Ledge sale, will need some road work, to include ditching and grading and the installation of culverts. The estimate from JML for the work is \$19,500.

V. 2025 Major Project Planning

A. Jimtown Logging Road

Mark Kelley advised that the work needed on the Jimtown Logging Road may be eligible for a grant through NCRS. They will be meeting with Kelley Eggleston on June 19 at 9am to walk the road. Culverts are needed, along with a bridge. It was suggested that the snowmobile clubs be contacted to see if they are willing to share any costs, and to suggest placing wood over the bridge for the snowmachines in winter. David DeGruttola will contact Clint Savage to attend the meeting. Mark Kelley advised that the culvert on Randolph Hill Road, which causes runoff, will also be addressed.

B. Potter Memorial Tree Update

Mark Kelley advised that the tree has been planted for the Potters. There has been a lot of rain, so it has not needed to be watered yet.

VI. Other Business

Mark Kelley advised that the Androscoggin Valley Community Forest Group will be meeting on June 17 from 3:00-8:00 pm. They will be meeting at the Pond of Safety Road parking area for a tour of the Little Ledge project.

Edith Tucker followed up on the discussion concerning allowing people to get firewood from downed trees in the forest. Ms. Tucker noted liability concerns previously discussed, and shared an excerpt from the book *New England Roadside Ecology* about the importance of coarse woody debris to biodiversity in the forest. Ms. Tucker noted that leaving the coarse woody debris is good forestry practice, and David DeGruttola advised that this is what they do in the

Randolph Community Forest. Ms. Tucker noted a study that was conducted in Vermont to monitor forest climate resistance, which compared leaving the course woody debris versus not leaving it.

Laura Brockett asked if any help was needed with Hazardous Waste Disposal Day. Mark Kelley noted that there are items at the Farrar Farm property that should be disposed of. Kelley will provide a trailer to transport the items, and if he is not available, will leave the trailer for someone else to take to AVRDD.

Paul Jadis noted that there is another option available for the control of Japanese Knotweed, by covering it with black paper and dirt and leaving it for 2-3 years. It was noted that Lancaster has also had an issue with knotweed, and it was suggested they be contacted to see what has worked for them. It was suggested that this method could be used on roadside patches.

Paul Jadis advised that Rick Fournier has stepped down from the Selectboard. John Turner will be helping until the March election.

The tower project was discussed. Mark Leclerc, who will be installing the tower, has been to the site and is happy with the location. Mr. Leclerc advised the tower will be kept to the 50-foot limit agreed upon. Paul Jadis will contact Chief Cloutier from Gorham to get updated plans. Concrete blocks will be installed for the tower and the generator. After the tower and generator are installed, fencing will be added around the site.

#### VII. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm by general consensus.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.