



Randolph Community Forest

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

Date: September 3, 2025

Location: Randolph Town Hall

Members Present: Mark Kelley, Walter Graff, David Willcox , and Tim Mather

Guests Present: David DeGruttola from LandVest, Rick Fournier, Jeremiah Hawkins, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

Mark Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

David Willcox, alternate member, was appointed to sit in for Laura Brockett.

I. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

Three invoices were received. One invoice was received from LandVest for \$1,525.00, for their monthly work. An invoice was received for copies for Forest Day in the amount of \$49.39. An invoice was received from Leo C. Jellison for mowing in the amount of \$2,400.00. All invoices were approved for payment and signed.

There was no invoice received yet for the gates, but they have been completed and delivered.

B. Payments Received

A check was received from LandVest for \$165.00 for firewood.

C. Financial Review

Mark Kelley advised they are in good standing for expenses.

II. Backcountry Skiing

Jeremiah Hawkins brought samples of proposed signage for the parking area and road. For the parking area, Mr. Hawkins suggested that some of the spaces should be marked as guest parking, with either one or two of the four parking areas being reserved for residents. The Commission noted that the signs should not say that access to the glades would be restricted, as it is the parking area that could be closed as it was last year. Mr. Hawkins also had other signs for the roadway to remind drivers to drive slow and park smart. Rick Fournier asked if the signs would be seasonal, and was advised they would be. It was suggested that rules be split onto two signs, one for parking and driving, and another for other items such as trash pickup and overnight parking. The sign with other rules could be posted at the kiosk. It was suggested that the signs be posted for November 1. Mr. Hawkins will speak with the sign maker concerning sizes, and will bring drafts to the next meeting along with a map of suggested locations.

Tim Mather noted that it is common for people to spend the night in the parking lot, and it was agreed that year-round signs are needed to prohibit this. Suggested wording was “no sleeping in motor vehicles or camping in parking lot”. Rick Fournier noted that this has to be posted for NHSP to enforce. It was noted that the State Prison could make the signs for a minor cost.

Mr. Hawkins advised that a group of local people would like to do a maintenance day at the glades, and the Commission gave permission for that work to be done.

III. Maple Sugar Lease

David Willcox advised that Att. Thomas McCue has worked on the maple sugar lease, taking the various parts of the lease agreement and combining them into an Amendment and Restatement of the Lease Agreement. Tim Mather noted concerns from the Planning Board, which included the bond, insurance certificate, and maintenance. David DeGruttola advised that maintenance means to keep the area in a “workman like manner”. David Willcox advised there was a space left for an insurance certificate in the draft. Mark Kelley will check on the bond.

IV. RMC MOU

Mark Kelley shared the MOU with the RMC with the Commission, along with comments from David Willcox and June Hammond-Rowan. Willcox suggested a redraft of Section C of the agreement to preserve to the Commission the traditional landowner rights to determine trail locations and to have trails closed if timber harvesting or other work creates a danger to the public. Also, to incorporate references to trails requested by the Commission. Mark Kelley will send an electronic copy of the agreement to the Planning Board for their next meeting.

V. Warrant Article

David Willcox advised the Commission of the Warrant Article for the Town Meeting next year to remove 4.5 acres from the Community Forest and return it to the Town.

It was noted that the radio tower has been installed on the property, as well as the poles for power. Mark Kelley advised that it is barely visible from the road. They will be installing a cattle fence to keep people from driving up the road.

VI. Jamie Maddock

Mark Kelley advised that Jamie Maddock has agreed to mow some Town Forest property in return for the use of garage space to store equipment at the Farrar Farm. Mr. Maddock will write a letter stating that the Town Forest is not responsible for any damages to equipment. Mark Kelley advised that he will get keys to Mr. Maddock, as well as to Mr. DeGruttola so that he can access parts for the gates.

VII. Forester’s Report

David DeGruttola advised that the gates have arrived. Two of the gates will be installed at the Pond of Safety and Bowman. The other will be kept as a spare. Rotten Rock has advised they would like to be there when the first gate is installed.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the Japanese Knotweed will be sprayed soon, and the flagging has been picked up to delineate the areas being sprayed.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that he spoke with Brian Campbell concerning the wildlife transects. Mr. Campbell would be willing to do the work, however the amount he would earn would not cover the cost of his insurance. Rick Fourier suggested that he be hired as temporary, part-time town employee, then he would be covered under the Town's insurance.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that they will be going out in September to measure culverts and cross drains on Jintown Road. They will not measure the bridges, as NRCS will do that.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that he will be meeting with Elise Lawson concerning the wildlife openings. Mr. DeGruttola advised that they were going to do brontosaurus work on the Potter Tract, but this will need to be built into the 2026 budget. The possibility of a small timber sale was discussed, however there are some concerns with access being right on Route 2. Other areas to access the property were suggested.

Mr. DeGruttola reminded the Commission that there is a Field Day planned for the NH Timberland Association at the Little Ledge site.

When asked about the current markets, Mr. DeGruttola advised that it is stable, as tariffs have not yet been applied to forest products. They will know more in November when prices are set.

VIII. Review August Minutes

On a motion by Walter Graff, seconded by Tim Mather, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2025, meeting as presented.

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm by general consensus.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin