



Randolph Community Forest

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

Date: December 3, 2025

Location: Randolph Town Hall

Members Present: Mark Kelley, Laura Brockett, Nate Reid, Tim Mather, Alex Roberts, Rick Fournier, David Willcox (via Zoom) and Water Graff (via Zoom)

Guests Present: David DeGruttola from LandVest (via Zoom), Randy Meiklejohn, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

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

I. Review November Minutes

On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Nate Reid, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025, meeting as presented.

II. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

Five invoices were received. An invoice was received from LandVest for \$3,682.80 for their monthly work. An invoice was received from JML for the road work and gates in the amount of \$17,924.06. An invoice was received from Alison Taylor for internet services, for \$206.50. An invoice for Timber Tax to the Town of Randolph was in the amount of \$6,363.31. The PILT payment to the Town of Randolph was in the amount of \$3,146.99. All invoices were approved for payment and signed.

B. Payments Received

No payments were received this month.

C. Financial Review

Mark Kelley advised the financial report will be reviewed along with the budget.

III. 2026 Budget Review

Mark Kelley noted that last year, the income was budgeted at \$110,000 and expenses at \$190,000. The actual budget income came in higher, and expenses

were lower, for a total income less expenses of \$3,608.94. Kelley advised that they budget conservatively for income and liberally for expenses, as some projects may not happen.

Mark Kelley provided a copy of the proposed 2026 budget. Kelley pointed out the major items in the income category, including Forest Product Sales, Maple Lease Income, and a Fish and Game Grant.

Major expenses include the prep work for the Little Ledges sale, culverts for phase 1 of the Jimtown Road project, and transect clearing. Mark Kelley advised that the Town has approved hiring Brian Campbell as a temporary employee to do the transect work. David DeGruttola will contact Mr. Campbell to let him know. Roadside mowing is budgeted higher, and they will be working on a plan for next year. There is some catch-up required for mowing, as they spent less this year. The final Stewardship Plan payment is scheduled for 2026. Other expenses include Forest Day, and Habitat Improvements for new wildlife areas. The PILTs are also included for Randolph, Jefferson, and Gorham.

On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Nate Reid, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2026 Forest Commission Budget to go to the Planning Board.

Mark Kelley advised that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the budget in January.

Mark Kelley provided a list of 2025 Accomplishments and Key Items for 2026 for Tim Mather to present to the Planning Board at their December meeting.

IV. Maple Sugar Lease Report- Update

David Willcox advised that the lease is still with Attorney McCue. The three issues being addressed are successors and assigns if Fuller sells the business, the bond for estimated profit which has been recommended to be removed, and the bond for cleanup if the business was to leave. Willcox noted that the bond for cleanup is not currently needed from Fuller, however may be needed from a new owner in the future. It was suggested that it be worded that the Forest Commission reserves the right to ask for the bond.

V. RMC MOU

Mark Kelley advised that the Planning Board has finalized an agreement with the RMC. The RMC will not charge to look at trails on Town Forest property, however, may ask for help with funding with any major projects.

On a motion by Tim Mather, seconded by Laura Brockett, the Commission voted unanimously to support the RMC Activity Manager Agreement as presented.

VI. Forester's Report

David DeGruttola advised that it has been a quiet November. Hunting season is close to the end and the gate on the Pond of Safety Road will need to be locked. Rick Fournier advised that Sunday is the last day of hunting season, and Mark Kelley advised he will lock the gate Sunday night or Monday.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the road work was done, and new gates were installed.

Mark Kelley advised that the snowmachine season starts December 15 if there is enough snow. The snowmachine club will contact Kelley to get the combinations to the gates when it is time.

VII. Other Business

Randy Meiklejohn advised that he is working on an article for the *Arnoldia* magazine about the Randolph Community Forest. He is currently volunteering as a docent at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, and the *Arnoldia* is their quarterly publication. Mr. Meiklejohn advised he will be working on the article for the next 10 months or so, and requested permission to interview five or six individuals in the community for which the Town Forest makes a difference.

David DeGruttola advised that he has not yet contacted the USFS but will try again tomorrow.

Rick Fournier suggested that the Forest Commission consider using the same contractors as the Town to save money. Mark Kelley will get the list of contractors to David DeGruttola.

VIII. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm by general consensus.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin