



# Randolph Community Forest

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

**Date:** January 7, 2026

**Location:** Randolph Town Hall

**Members Present:** Mark Kelley, Laura Brockett, Tim Mather, Rick Fournier, and Water Graff (via Zoom)

**Guests Present:** David DeGruttola from LandVest (via Zoom), George Cook, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

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

Rick Fournier was appointed to take the place of Nate Reid, who was absent.

I. Review December Minutes

On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Tim Mather, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025, meeting as presented.

II. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

There were no invoices received.

B. Payments Received

No payments were received this month.

C. Financial Review

Mark Kelley advised that they ended the year with the budget \$2,000 underspent. The income was budgeted at \$106,000 and they received \$118,000, and the expenses were budgeted at \$190,000 and they spent \$116,000.

III. George Cook, North Country Mushers

George Cook was in attendance to give an overview of the sled dog race held last year in the Community Forest, and to advise that this year's race will be held the weekend of January 24-25. The race starts at 9:00 am on the Pond of Safety Road. Teams start at 3-minute intervals, and there are usually about 20 teams that participate. The course takes about an hour and a half to complete. Spectators are welcome to attend.

Mr. Cook asked about plowing of the parking lot, and Mark Kelley advised that the Waumbek-Methna Snowmobile Club is responsible for that. Kelley will contact them to advise of the dates of the race. Mr. Cook also asked about a map of the roads in the Community Forest, and Kelley will email him a map with the road names listed.

IV. Gifts and Grants Account

Mark Kelley advised that he met with June Hammond Rowan and Tim Mather regarding the Gifts and Grants account. Hammond Rowan had some concerns about the deficit in the proposed budget, and suggested transferring money from the Gifts and Grants account to the Revolving Fund to cover some of the wildlife work this year, such as the wildlife opening and the transects. Some research was done on the grants, and there was a \$150,000 grant through the NH Charitable Trust from the Kigme Fund that is earmarked for wildlife use.

**On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Tim Mather, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$35,000 from the Gifts and Grants account to the Revolving Fund for wildlife projects.**

The Commission discussed the possibility of investing some of the money in the Gifts and Grants account to earn interest. Rick Fournier noted that any investment with public money must be a government secured bond or CD. The NH Public Deposit Investment Pool was suggested.

V. 2026 Randolph Forest Commission Budget Public Hearing

Mark Kelley noted that the public hearing on the 2026 Forest Commission budget will be held on Thursday, January 8, at 7:00 pm, at the Planning Board meeting.

VI. Review Outline of Town Report

Mark Kelley provided a draft copy of the Forest Commission article for the Town Report. Kelley requested that members send any feedback to him by the end of next week, as he would like to get the article to Linda in the Town Office then.

Kelley noted that Elise Lawson will be getting some information to him on Monday to add to the report, and thanked David DeGruttola for helping to provide information that was included.

VII. Forester's Report

David DeGruttola noted that December was a quiet month. The grader worked on the road for the timber sale this winter, but got stuck at the forest opening.

Mr. DeGruttola noted that he has tried to reach Brian Campbell about the possibility of seasonal employment with the Town, but has not heard back. Mr. DeGruttola will attempt to call him.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the timber harvest should begin at the end of January. The harvest should have no impact on the sled dog race that is planned, however he will let the crew know about it.

Mr. DeGruttola advised he has not yet contacted the USFS, as they continue to play phone tag. He will continue to try to reach them.

Mr. DeGruttola noted that the market has been stable, and they should be able to move any hardwood pulp wood provided. Many contractors are providing soft woods, which may bump up hardwood prices. There is a good market for White Ash, which is at high risk due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

Laura Brockett stated that she noticed some ash trees along Pinkham B Road that had been flagged with ribbons, and wondered if they were going to be harvested due to the risk. Mr. DeGruttola noted that he was not sure of the plan for these, which are not on the Community Forest. Ms. Brockett also advised that she noticed new blue boundary lines while walking the roadway.

VIII. Other Business

There was no other business.

IX. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm by general consensus.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin