



# Randolph Community Forest

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

- Date:** February 4, 2026
- Location:** Randolph Town Hall
- Members Present:** Mark Kelley, Tim Mather, Nathaniel Reid, David Willcox, Alex Roberts, and Walter Graff
- Guests Present:** David DeGruttola from LandVest (via Zoom), Elise Lawson (via Zoom), Redza Dempster (via Zoom), Gary Newfield, Randy Meiklejohn, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

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

I. Snyder Brook Scenic Area

Redza Dempster, President of the Randolph Foundation, advised that the Snyder Brook Scenic Area has received a designation as an Old Growth Forest, and will now be part of the Old Growth Forest Network. This was recently approved by the US Forest Service, and there will be a ceremony in late August or early September. Mr. Dempster advised that although this may increase the number of scientists visiting the area, the number of tourists should not increase. Mr. Dempster advised that this information was included in the most recent *Mountain View*, and an updated article from David Govatski will be included in the next edition. Mr. Dempster advised that there is only one other Old Growth Forest in Coos County, and one other in NH is in Carroll County. Walter Graff suggested that the AMC be invited to attend the ceremony, as the land was originally purchased by the AMC and given to the USFS.

II. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

There were three invoices received this month. One from North Shore Printing, for the signs for the glades, in the amount of \$510.00. This invoice included sales tax, which Mark Kelley will ask about. An invoice was received for the annual dues for the tree farm administration fee for the American Forest Foundation, in the amount of \$217.30. The monthly invoice was received from LandVest in the amount of \$1,174.00, of which the majority was for the Whole Lotta Ledge cut they were planning to do soon.

B. Payments Received

No payments were received this month.

### C. Financial Review

Mark Kelley advised that the current balance in the Grants and Gifts account is approximately \$282,000, and the Planning Board has approved taking \$35,000 from this account for the wildlife projects this year. The total assets are approximately \$400,000.

### III. Forest Commission Article for Town Report

Mark Kelley advised that the Forest Commission article for the Town Report was submitted, and copies were sent to members.

### IV. Randolph Forest Commission Budget

Mark Kelley advised that the 2026 Forest Commission budget was approved by the Planning Board after the public hearing last month.

### V. Forester's Report

David DeGruttola noted that it has been a quiet month. Mr. DeGruttola noted that due to the markets, they are not going to be able to move forward with the timber sale they planned for this winter. The pulp markets are not great and there is not enough volume to cut saw logs. The company that was going to do the harvest is behind on their work, and by the second week of February, Ingerson Road will most likely be posted.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the backup plan will be to harvest a section off Bowman Road this summer to make up the projected revenue. Mr. DeGruttola advised that hopefully the pulpwood situation will be straightened out and that hardwood saw log prices will increase. Mark Kelley noted that a summer timber harvest might be a good opportunity for Forest Day, for people to see a working forest.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that he has not yet contacted Brian Campbell concerning the transects, but will try calling. It was suggested that they come up with a backup plan in case Mr. Campbell is not available. Elise Lawson suggested three transects to be done this year, one by the Pond of Safety, one by Wetlands Road, and another in that area, as they are relatively easy to get to. Ms. Lawson advised that they should wait until at least June before doing the work, when the ground will be drier.

Mr. DeGruttola has also not been able to contact the USFS, but will try again.

Mark Kelley asked about the plan for culverts on Jimtown Road, and Mr. DeGruttola advised that they are planning to do half of the culverts this year. He will need to talk with Clint Savage, as they may be able to supply the culverts. It

was noted that there are also some culverts that need to be reset on Bowman Road. Mr. DeGruttola will reach out to Kelly Eggleston at NRCS about the field work to be done for the bridges for phase two of the Jimtown Road project.

Mark Kelley advised that they have been working on a map for mowing for wildlife openings, and will come up with a plan and talk with the contractors. It was suggested that they leave about 10 feet before the forest as a buffer when mowing.

The proposed wildlife opening on Deerfly Road was discussed, and David DeGruttola advised that the Fish and Game grant would be for up to \$4,000 for this purpose.

Elise Lawson suggested visiting vernal pools again this year to update the map, as it has been a number of years since this was done. Mark Kelley suggested that photographs could be taken, and the information uploaded to iNaturalist.

VI. Japanese Knotweed on Durand Road

Gary Newfield, Chair of the Conservation Commission, advised that the Selectboard has asked the Conservation Commission to look into spraying Japanese Knotweed along Durand Road. Mr. Newfield suggested that Joel White, who did work for the Forest Commission to eradicate Japanese Knotweed on the Farrar property, do a presentation for the community on Japanese Knotweed and other invasive species. Mark Kelley agreed that this would be a good presentation for Forest Day. Mr. Newfield also suggested that Elise Lawson present on the iNaturalist program, and how to document for invasive species.

VII. Other Business

Randy Meiklejohn was in attendance, and advised he is continuing to work on the article about the Randolph Community Forest for *Arnoldia*, the quarterly magazine of the Arnold Arboretum.

VIII. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm by general consensus.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Shelli Fortin*