

Randolph Conservation Commission  
March 15, 2011

Present

Gerry Reymore, Gus Howe Johnson, Dan Koloski, Sid McLam, Jenn Guarino, Abbey Willard, Mike Bald.

Minutes

Minutes of the February 2011 meeting were not distributed, could not be reviewed.

Treasurer's report

No treasurer's report is available at this time.

The question still stands as to details regarding the FY 2011 expenses totaling \$3115.80 and what these expenses were for. RCC members requested additional details on the RCC expense report.

Summer Internship Program Development

Abbey Willard from the White River Natural Resources Conservation District attended to discuss the grant request for town education projects to work on town management conservation goals including a summer internship project. The grant request for \$1050 for the Randolph Youth Enrichment Stewardship Program has been submitted to the selectboard with recommendation from the RCC for approval.

Mike Bald also attended to discuss the development of a potential "Randolph Natural Resource Conservation Crew" and ideas for a pilot project for youth to work on. Goals would include student presentations at the end of the summer (to the RCC and other audience). An outline of a potential task list is being developed and they are requesting feedback from the RCC. Without full funding approval at this date, Mike is looking to adjust/rescale the plan to accommodate the funding that is available. Mike is looking for a task list for the town properties in order to do this revision and plan/schedule the projects. (What about granting some sort of independent credit/study to the students in lieu of pay in order to reduce costs-question proposed. Lamson-Howell is reviewing the grant proposal this week.)

We reviewed both grant proposals to see how and if the deliverables could be dovetailed.

RCC members are interested in meeting with members of the WRCD and other partners of the vision to continue the discussion and perhaps form a steering committee. For the moment we will work on defining a tangible project for youth to

participate in this summer as a "preview" of more to come as the larger vision is continued to be developed.

### Town Forest

Jenn shared a copy of the VT town forest plan developed by the Northern Forest Alliance describing town forest designation criteria. DK suggested that if we can get a solid inventory of all town land with trees on it (which is included as part of the Stewardship program proposal) we could use the information to benefit the town. Perhaps some town owned, forest properties could be nominated as official "Town Forest Parcels". Currently, we believe the town of Randolph has six town-owned forest properties: Tatro/Sayward, Ellis, Rabbit Track, Floodplain Forest, S.Pleasant St Cemetery, RTCC farmland (Peaceful Valley Brook) in Braintree.

### Town Forest Signage

Gerry emailed Pete Fellows of the Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission GIS for assistance with obtaining information to post on the kiosk and got a positive response.

Gerry reminded that two town kiosk information signs have been installed at S. Pleasant Street and Ellis Property. Gerry has previously requested RCC reimburse the school for the cost of completing the kiosks for \$216.40 (RCC approved request - noted in the Dec 2010 minutes). A copy of this bill has been submitted to the selectboard.

Dave is working on putting together the information to go on the town kiosks. He also has emailed Gary Champy about putting sheet plastic or Plexiglas on the information portion of the sign, and has been told that the town will install the material on the information signs.

Gerry will put together a proposal for the construction of two more information kiosks for Rabbit Track and Sayward Forest, estimating materials, with labor donated.

### Membership

Vacancies will be reported to the selectboard. Anyone interested in serving on the RCC should write a letter to the Randolph selectboard expressing their interest. Jenn has someone who might be interested.

### Agenda

RCC members thanked Dan for emailing us copies of the agenda when he emailed it to Cindy.

### Forest Thinning Maintenance

Gerry has requested that Dave Paganelli put together a possible estimate for our consideration so that we may make a recommendation to the selectboard regarding forest thinning at the Tatro Hill property. This property was scheduled for thinning management a few years ago but it was not completed at that time because the price for board feet made the project not cost worthy. Dave has reported that red pine is currently worth \$150 per 1000 board feet and this might be a good time to look at the Tatro Hill property for possible thinning.

Note: The Brookfield conservation group is hosting a presentation on vernal pool id and mapping on March 30 at 7pm at the Pond Village church.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting will be April 19, 2011 at 6pm.

\*\* Note that the regular business meetings of the RCC are normally the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.