

Randolph Conservation Commission
2/21/12

Present: Dan Koloski, Dave Crosby, Gerry Reymore, Gus Howe Johnson, Brendan Barden.

Minutes from January 17, 2011 minutes were accepted as read.
No treasurer's report to review.

Membership

Brendan is interested in serving on the RCC and has submitted a letter of interest to the select board.

Town Forest Kiosks

Gerry's students have the materials they need to construct the two kiosks (Tatro and Rabbit Track) and expect to complete them in February to be placed in the spring. Dave will work on a permit for placement at Rabbit Track. The goals of the display would be to: increase awareness of these forests as town assets that are managed by the municipality; educate the public about the natural resources and features of the forest; encourage appropriate and permitted public uses of the forest (e.g., hiking) and discourage inappropriate uses.

Riverbank cleanup

Gerry's RTCC students walked the trails from the skating rink past the ball field along the river and observed a number of large logs remaining along the riverbank as deposited by the flood after Irene. Some of these logs could become firewood, with the resulting wood being donated to community members in need of firewood. Gerry will approach the select board to pursue this project. Brendan will speak to Jim Ryan, the White River Basic watershed coordinator as to the possibility these logs could be collected and what the ecological impact might be, to confirm this activity would be in line with the recommended use of flood plains.

Town Property Usage

Dave brought our concerns to the selectboard at the last meeting regarding appropriate usage of town property, specifically the Ellis property. Evidently the land trust oversees usage policies regarding this piece of property and the RCC or the Randolph selectboard doesn't have a say. Some members of the neighborhood and conservation commission will attend tonight's selectboard meeting to discuss issues of concern.

Land Trust Funding Request

Jon Ramsay from the Vermont Land Trust spoke on behalf of three parcels of land that are currently going through the process of conserving land. Applications will be submitted on behalf of each land parcel so that grants could be requested.

Timber from Tatro

Dave Paginelli met Gerry's students at Sayward Forest and guided them through the process of selecting trees to cut for the RTCC timber frame project. The 9 trees are cut into 35 logs and prepared for removal. A logging truck was located and the logs were removed from Tatro with great thanks and help from Rob Runnals from Randolph Public Works to prepare the road appropriately. The logs were transported to RTCC and the timber frame has been sawed out. The rest of the logs are continuing to be milled for other projects. Visitors are welcome to observe the ongoing projects.

VTC Timber Sports Competition

This event is scheduled for March 17 with 16 tech schools participating. Volunteers are needed for judging, timing, record keeping, and will be fed lunch. A good time will be had by all!

Sayward Forest Timber Management

Dave Paginelli also said this is a good time to thin the pine wood lot at Sayward Forest and will work with RTCC students to teach them the process of timber management and sale of the timber. Dave is pulling the information together to put out to bid. Dave will also mark hardwood and put together a contract for RTCC students to harvest for firewood. At the last meeting Dan made a motion that we pursue the county forester's recommendation to manage the town forests with timber stand improvement cut and execute the timber sales of the red pine, to be in keeping with the schedule for management on file at the town office.

Trails Maintenance

Trails on town property will be groomed as appropriate, as soon as there is snow to run the equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

The Randolph Conservation Commission regularly meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6pm at the Randolph Town Hall. Next meeting will be March 20, 2012. Potluck snacks will be served, please bring a dish to share!

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