



## **Randolph Conservation Commission**

**Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 at 6:00pm**

**Conference Room B at Town Hall**

Meeting started 6:02

In attendance: Emily Lewis, Brendan Barden, Ian Blackmer, Sue Poulin, Rachel Westbrook, Jessamyn West

Minutes approved

### **Sayward update**

Derek Aldrighetti has been up there cutting and will have more equipment in this week to finish up in the next 2-3 weeks. Seedlings are on order. Walk planned February 24 for a public walk going through the lot.

Will post to newspaper, FPF, Facebook. Reminder to use the full name of the John Sayward Forest

### **Ellis Update**

Still working on a management plan for the Vermont Land Trust.

Ridgeline Velomont plans are ongoing, they're both busy but also want to make sure we're in touch with them as Ellis plans continue. Considerations: camping, trash, hygiene facilities. Planning will be done in late Spring and Ellis integration would be in the near term. Emily will reach out for more details.

### **Membership update**

We have two open spots and six people who have expressed various level of interest.

Sue Poulin showed up and let us know her background. She's from East Randolph, moved away and came back, recently retired from USDA and has actually been to Rabbit Track!

### **Old Business**

Passed around the end of the year summary that is going in the Town Report (attached).

Discussion about the role and purpose of the Conservation Commission- recreation, planning, wildlife preservation-and discussed the upcoming town plan and what the RCC's role is in the planning process will be.

Executive Session to discuss membership

Made a motion to notify Trevor and our first selection.

Jessamyn will reach out to Jim, and let other folks know where we are in the process.

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## **Randolph Conservation Commission**

### **Annual Report 2023**

The Commission concentrated on two main priorities this year

1. Working on creating a management plan for Ellis Town Forest and managing access during the ongoing reservoir work 2. Planning and implementing a timber harvesting plan for the Sayward Forest

We also ran a well-attended program about bats, presented in person and online by Barry Genzlinger of the Vermont Bat Center. It was also recorded for ORCA Media.

Public engagement included promotion of other outdoor- and wildlife-related opportunities such as the Christmas Bird Count, as well as presenting information about options for managing emerald ash borer issues.

The Commission worked with AJ Follensbee, the Orange and Windsor County Forester, the Conservation Commission contracted for a timber harvesting operation and put the job out for bid. The contracted work started in early 2024 with planting and trail maintenance scheduled for later in the year. Community outreach included walks through the Sayward Forest and communication with abutting landowners.

We continued to work with the Ridgeline Outdoor Collective including offering feedback on the landowner agreement ROC has with the Town of Randolph.

For more information about the commission and related resources, please visit the commission's web page on the Randolph town web site.