

Monkton Agricultural and Natural Area Committee Meeting—Minutes for 3/21/2012

In Attendance

Members: Sue Regier, Sam Burr, John McNerney, Caitlin Cusack, and Deb Gaynor

Absent: Laura Farrell

Guests: none

- 1) Sue called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- 2) We discussed with Allen his request for \$300 for the Orb Weaver appraisal. The appraisal has been completed, and Justis DeVries sent a bill for 300 to the Select Board. We need to let Chuck know.
- 3) For the Muzzy request for financial support for a Forest Management Plan, the NRCS can and will help underwrite this expense through the Equip Cost Share. Caitlin gave the relevant information to Allen. He will follow up on this and come back to us if there is a remaining gap.
- 4) Remaining projects: Phil Russell's CREP program is moving ahead, and their appraisal is due in mid-to late April. The Rotax appraisal won't come through until summer or fall even. The budget for VHCB looks good at the House level; it has to go to the Senate after it clears the House. Orb Weaver will apply to the VHCB, so any additional leverage we can provide will be helpful. Spooner-Muzzy will be reviewed in May (May 10th), and Orb Weaver in September.
- 5) VLT needs money about 2-3 weeks prior to closing. Spooner-Muzzy closing would be probably late summer—maybe early August—so we should figure on needing to have the funds available to VLT by early July. Orb Weaver would probably fall into an October time frame; Russells could possibly be that early also. Allen will start the application process for both Spooner-Muzzy and Orb Weaver.
- 6) Hinesburg will definitely provide support to the Russell application, and Rotax won't happen until the 2013 fiscal year.
- 7) Sam moved and John seconded that we approve the minutes of 3/7/12; all in favor.
- 8) We discussed using the ANA Fund for non-easement purchases again. John: we should probably have a cap to protect the fund for easement uses. Sam: important to stay flexible in our policies.

Proposed policy: Generally, support money from the ANA Fund is provided at the closing of a conservation project. However, in some circumstances, ANAC may recommend to the Select Board approving limited support for conservation transaction costs incurred prior to closing on the project. Determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- 9) John moved that we adopt the new conservation transaction policy as written above. Sam seconded. All in favor.
- 10) We set the date of our next meeting as 4/4/12 at 7 pm, and confirmed that we will continue with our standing meeting dates and times of 7 pm on the first Wednesday of the month, with a back-up meeting date on the third Wednesday of the month.
- 11) Sam moved and Deb seconded that we adjourn; we unanimously adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted on 3/21/2012,

Deb Gaynor
ANAC Secretary