

**MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING**

MONKTON TOWN HALL  
September 24, 2012 - Minutes

Members Present: John Phillips, Anne Layn, Stephen Pilcher, Peter Norris, John McNerney

Others Present: Marian Pollack, Marjorie Susman, Deb Gaynor, Laura Farrell, Allen Karnatz, Sam Burr, Peter Close, Wendy Sue Harper.

**Call to Order**

John Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Announcement**

The Select Board was notified by Thea Gaudette that the Town of Monkton Planning Commission was awarded a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Grant of \$15,000.

Anne Layn announced that the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department had a very successful Grass Drags event. One of the corporate sponsors has a video of the event at [www.morelovemonkton.com](http://www.morelovemonkton.com)

**Regular Business**

**Approval of Minutes**

John McNerney moved to approve the September 10<sup>th</sup> minutes as written. Anne Layn seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Warrants**

P/R	09/24/12	#20924	\$10,336.00
A/P	09/24/12	#20924	\$40,782.20

**Overweight Permits**

Phoenix Forestry and Logging, Middlebury, VT

**Old Business**

**Replacement Sign Policy**

John Phillips noted that his understanding is that Monkton still has to have a Replacement Sign Policy even if the State of Vermont and Federal guidelines have been relaxed from the previous requirement of replacing all the signs by a date certain. Stephen Pilcher volunteered to find an example policy to use as a starting point.

**New Business**

**Curb Cut – Cemetary Road –**

Nancy Goodrich has requested a curb cut on Cemetery Road. Peter Norris has already done a site visit and recommended a galvanized culvert instead of the proposed plastic culvert. Language was added to the Curb Cut Application to specify brush removal 10' back from the culvert for a sight line. John Phillips agreed to review with Ken Wheeling about adding sight line language to the application form going forward. Pete Norris proposed approving the requested curb cut. Motion seconded by Anne Layn and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **ANAC – Orb Weaver Farm Conservation**

Sam Burr noted that the Select Board has the report on this project from the ANAC committee. The Orb Weaver project will conserve 99 acres of working agricultural land, 100% of which is in Monkton. The property will remain in private ownership and the Orb Weaver conservation easement will become part of the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) stewardship management. The current owners, Marjorie Susman and Marian Pollack have been farming sustainably since the mid-1980's and have developed a successful cheese and vegetable business. The ANAC requests spending \$20,000 out of the ANAC Fund towards this project. These monies represent 8% of the total project costs with the remainder monies coming from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). The VHCB approved this project on September 20<sup>th</sup>. There is some question about actual closing dates because Margorie Susman and Marian Pollack are asking for a waiver for a 2 acre parcel to be left out of the conservation easement. Stephen Pilcher made a motion to approve the spending of \$20,000 from the ANAC funds for the Orb Weaver Farm conservation project. Motion was seconded by Peter Norris and passed unanimously.

#### **Reclassification of Roads**

John Phillips thought the Select Board should consider reclassifying unused parts of some Class 4 roads to Legal Trails. After some discussion it was decided that the Select Board needs more clarification on the difference in the Town right and responsibilities in each case before proceeding.

#### **DRB Update**

##### ***Recording Secretary Pay Rate***

Peter Close, as Chair of the Development Review Board, asked the Select Board to consider raising the pay rate for the Recording Secretary. There was some discussion on the importance and sensitivity of the work that the DRB does. Anne Layn made a motion to have the pay rate of the Recording Secretary match that of the DRB Clerk at \$16/hour retroactive to the start date of the new Recording Secretary. Motion was seconded by John McNerney and passed unanimously.

##### ***Request for Additional Application Fee for First Cut Subdivisions***

The DRB has sent a letter to the Select Board requesting the establishment of a \$25 application fee to first cut subdivision in addition to the \$25 publication of the warning fee already charged. Peter Norris made a motion to accept this change. John McNerney seconded and the motion passed.

**Monkton Energy Committee (MEC) Update**

Wendy Sue Harper, Co-Chair of the MEC gave the Select Board an update on some of the current projects

***PACE Program***

Given that the Select Board had no objections to the draft contract between Monkton and Efficiency Vermont, the draft contract will be sent to Efficiency Vermont for their review then to the Town Attorney before public hearing when the language is approved.

***Solar Energy***

The MEC has been told that the roof of the MCS will not support a PV system. The Select Board has proposed the date of October 29<sup>th</sup> to hear proposals from the three companies that have expressed an interest. This would be a fact finding meeting to hear possible options before deciding whether to proceed.

**Select Board Round Table**

Peter Norris indicated that there is some talk of creating a Select Board Round Table similar to the Road Commissioner Round Table that currently exists. The idea would be to allow Select Board members from various towns to meet and compare notes. The Select Board noted that there would be some interest and value in this.

**Next Meeting**

The Select Board will meet next on Monday, October 22<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Stephen Pilcher, seconded by Anne Layn. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Stephen Pilcher