

## Monkton Agricultural and Natural Area Committee Meeting — Draft Minutes for 6/4/2014

### In Attendance

Members: Laura Farrell, Rachel Schattman, Deb Gaynor, Sam Burr, Corine Farewell

Absent: none

Guests: Chris Slesar (Monkton Conservation Commission, Chair), John Binhammer (The Nature Conservancy), Steve Parren (Monkton resident), Marty Illick. (Chris and Steve left after point 1. John and Marty left after point 2.)

Laura calls the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

1. John Binhammer presents potential conservation project, Pond Brook wetland area. TNC is asking for funding from outside sources. Long-term ownership of and easement on this wetland and adjacent town land is discussed.
  - a. TNC asks ANAC to consider recommending in favor of paying for project costs (administrative and associated costs for TNC); TNC expects to find external funding for easement costs.
  - b. Timeframe: Ideally ownership and easement would be resolved within a year.
  - c. Next steps: John is given an ANAC application to fill out, and will present to ANAC at our next meeting. The committee will then decide what to bring to the Select Board as a recommendation.
2. Laura Farrell asks for information from John about aggregation of small landholdings for conservation purposes. Alternative approaches to conservation easements are discussed:
  - a. 99-year leases;
  - b. Boundary adjustments that allow enrollment in current use;
  - c. Town purchase of conservation lots (contiguous parcels could potentially be combined) as has been considered in other towns;
  - d. Contractual management agreement on land as opposed to an easement agreement.
3. ANAC has been asked if the committee would consider performing monitoring on behalf of the town. Once again, it is reaffirmed that ANAC does not have the capacity to monitor projects.
4. Review of meeting minutes from 5/8/14.
  - a. [ANAC@monktonvt.com](mailto:ANAC@monktonvt.com) is a working email. It forwards to all committee members.
  - b. Rachel will check on cost of brochure printing and will get back to the committee with a quote.
  - c. VNRC Intertown conservation meetings are canceled.
  - d. Laura moves to accept the meeting minutes from 5/8/14. All in favor. Minutes approved as amended.
5. Additional comments on brochure: Add language about ANAC serving as an informational resource for town landowners. Explanation of ANAC will replace one of the quotes. Rachel will have brochures ready by June 22<sup>nd</sup> (for the Strawberry Festival.)
6. Laura will continue to serve as chair.
7. Tabled until next meeting: planning for inter-town conservation meeting hosted by Monkton ANAC.
8. Deb will contact potential ANAC candidate.
9. Next meeting scheduled: July 2, 2014, 7pm-9pm. Following meeting August 20, 7pm-9pm.
10. Sam moves to adjourn, Deb seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.