

Monkton ANAC Meeting Minutes for 19 November, 2014

In Attendance

Members: Deb Gaynor, Sam Burr, Corine Farewell, and Laura Farrell.

Absent: Rachel Schattman.

Guests: Amy Dohner (F); Karen Pettersen (F); Craig Heindel (F); Johan Medenwald (F); Denis Armell (B); Pete Diminico (B); Randy Durand (B); Dave Rosen (B); Rick Taylor (B); and Ken Johnson (B), where (F) and (B) denote the guest as belonging to either the Ferrisburgh (F) or Bristol (B) Conservation Commissions.

- 1) Laura called the meeting to order (7:00 pm)
- 2) Sam briefly discussed new projects in front of the VLT Ag Advisory Committee
Sam briefly discussed Jon Binhammer's status regarding the TNC parcels recently purchased.
- 3) Laura began the intertown conservation meeting with introductions.
 - a) Pete: "We can't over-network". "If we need to know something, we should be able to dowse someone".
 - b) Ferrisburgh: Craig: Also has a PC and a ZBA but not a DRB (just like Bristol). They try to watchdog applications that come to the ZBA and the PC, and will attend meetings in order to speak to conservation issues in individual applications. They sometimes go on site visits with the ZBA. Currently helping with the rewriting the town plan (on year 6 or 7 now); did author the nat res section. Often attend PC meetings. Has a very small operating budget; have discussed asking the town for a mechanism to establish a conservation fund, but given the conservative SB and the high percentage of conserved land, so have let that issue rest. Do get requests for comment from VLT and TNC, and are responsive to those. Have tried to promote hedgerow conservation concept; have had some success, but not always. Draft town plan does address repair of riparian buffers. Once a year try to organize or sponsor an educational or community event—a speaker on wildlife, on riparian buffers, etc. Regularly do a presentation at Town Meeting; asked people to contribute wildlife sightings to a map; continuing that on FPF.
 - c) Bristol (Pete): Project-driven activities. New Haven River has a high priority for protection. BCC particularly concerned about gravel extraction, which had a big impact on the newest version of their town plan. VT Geological Survey helped them with a \$6K grant for new maps, with \$1500 help from the town. BCC wrote the Nat Res section of their new town plan. They have taken over several parks from FEMA funds, and brought ecologists in to work on those. Achieved setbacks on the river corridor, Did not specifically address wildlife corridors outside of the river. Did insist on having the town plan push to have geomorphic assessments done by the zoning board. Helped establish conservation of Watershed Center, Vermont Family Forests; recent farm conservations. They proposed 1/3 cent on the tax dollar but SB proposed that they do a line-item appropriation instead, and they've been doing that for years. New TMDL plan is going to be a major player in our near future. Dave: we are quick to invite ourselves to PC meetings, and they come to ours very often; we work well together, and that helps reduce the burden on both groups.
 - d) Monkton: Laura: we are also advisory, and work closely with the organizations that will hold the easements (VLT, TNC, F&W). Sam: We created ANAC because the CC can only take a total land donation, and since the CC was created before the state statute, they have always gone their own way, and ANAC was created to address land conservation. Sam summarized the process we use.

Deb: we do use a checklist and try to establish whether or not there will be unrestricted public access, recreational access, and control of invasive species.

- a. Dave Rosen: their CC has started discussing whether or not to do little mini-grants for local needs, education, etc.
- b. Ferrisburgh town forest was donated by the Robinson family. County forester works with them. Not building trails due to bobcat presence. Some firewood harvesting for Basin Harbor white oak and white pine for boatbuilding. Also some limited firewood harvesting to address heating needs in town.

4) Maps! Paper maps from Ferrisburgh and Bristol ACRPC makes their maps for them.

5) What's important in our shared borders?

Bristol—from Bristol Pond all the way up Hogback.

Ferrisburgh: the entire shared town line.

Monkton—especially the strip of the Claflin farm that did not get conserved, on the north side of the farm.

6) Some further discussion of a new conservation project in town. Sam will be at the VHCB meeting tomorrow, and will bring back more information. For the current project, we don't need to take any action on the TNC project; we can just wait for Binhammer to submit an application.

7) Our budget request is due Dec. 1. We'll put in the same number for the appropriation, raise the budget request to \$750. and if things change by Town Meeting, we can stand up and ask for more, and explain why. Laura proposed and Corine seconded that we ask for that, and all in favor.

8) No December meeting needed. Next meeting Jan. 7 (Corine will probably not be able to come to that). Laura will try to schedule Charlotte and New Haven for that meeting. The following meeting needs to be Feb. 11 for Laura's schedule (fix website calendar), and she will invite Hinesburg and Starksboro.

9) Deb moves and Sam seconds that we approve the minutes from Oct. 22, 2014. All in favor (Corine abstained).

10) Read over tonight's minutes.

11) Sam moved to adjourn. Deb seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Gaynor, for Rachel Schattman, ANAC Secretary