

Monkton ANAC Meeting Minutes for 4 November 2015

In Attendance

Members: Sam Burr, Laura Farrell, Deb Gaynor, and Paul Whalen

Absent: Rachel Schattman, Corine Farewell

Guests: Alison Lesure

- 1) Laura called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- 2) Approval of minutes from 13 October 15 meeting – Deb moved to approve the minutes as written, Paul seconded, and all were in favor.
- 3) Laura communicated with Bob Heiser of VLT regarding the management plan process for The Nature Conservancy property and instead of requiring a whole new plan, Bob Heiser will amend to the existing plan to state that it is binding on the whole property until a new one is written, which will need to occur within the next year. The Conservation Commission will have the responsibility of working on this new management plan. Sam inquired whether there was a quorum of Conservation Commission members? Laura noted that there are currently three members for a five-member committee, and she thinks they have quorum. Sam will check on whether or not this is the case. Laura inquired about ANAC's role in the closing, and Sam responded that this is the Select Board's role.
- 4) Viewshed meeting attendance and outcome – Sam provided an update on the most recent Viewshed meeting. The meeting attendance was quite low, and to date, the participation has been very limited which is the main challenge, but the process is continuing and they are encouraging people to mark any of their special scenic views on maps of Monkton and are still collecting photos.
- 5) Intertown Meeting – The new date of January 24th and the rental of Holley Hall are confirmed. The Bristol Conservation Commission agreed to co-sponsor the event so the registration fees were waived. A list needs to be generated of any equipment and other supplies (e.g., magic markers, big sticky note pad, easel, projector, etc.) that will be needed for the meeting. Sam suggested that the first step is to develop an agenda and then decisions can be made about technological and other needs. Laura also asked if any other individuals or groups should be invited, such as land trusts? Deb suggested that the Lewis Creek Association might be good to invite given their work across towns. Members discussed whether or not other organizations beyond Conservation Commissions should be invited to participate. It was determined that it would be best to keep this initial meeting limited to the Conservation Commissions, and future meetings can include NGOs and other relevant organizations. Paul inquired what the ultimate outcome/takeaway of this meeting will be? Other members responded that it is an opportunity to gather everyone together to share how they work, learn from one another, and interact and get to know others for collaboration on any current and future intertown projects. Paul also asked if the meeting would be run by a professional facilitator and others agreed that this will be beneficial and discussed potential options. Deb will contact VLCT about a possible facilitator. Members also discussed different ideas for the structure and agenda of the meeting, such as having a presentation given by the Addison Regional Planning Commission, asking each town to introduce themselves and share a case study where their process and their role for a specific project in their town is mapped out with highlights about what worked and what could be improved, and to review maps and potential

areas of habitat connectivity. Paul will compile the various points into a draft agenda and circulate for review, and at the next meeting a final agenda will be decided upon. Laura noted that so far 3 Commissions have responded to the questionnaire and she is still waiting on 4 respondents. Laura will compile all the responses for the next ANAC meeting, and will inquire with the Commissions to see if they are interested in receiving compiled responses as well.

6) The Cota application was received 3 November 15 from Al Karnatz/VLT. Sam said that the next step is to schedule a site visit and members discussed the timing for this and the best approach for gathering information.

7) Other Business – Deb reminded everyone that Town Meeting day is early this year and budget numbers and Town Report write up will be due soon.

7) Next meeting will be December 2 at 7 pm.

8) Deb moved to adjourn the meeting, Sam seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Lesure