

**Town of Monkton**  
**Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**12<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 7:00pm**  
**Monkton Town Hall**  
(Approved 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019)

Attendance:

Members: Laura Farrell, Jaime Schulte (joined 7:15), Susan Mahony, Sam Burr, Nora Wolff

Absent: John Mejia

Guests: None

Minutes Taker: Jaime Schulte

- 1) Laura called the meeting to order (7:03)
- 2) Approve minutes for August, November (7:00-7:17)
  - a. The August minutes were amended and approved (unanimously)
  - b. The November minutes were amended and approved (unanimously)
- 3) Updates (7:17 – 7:40)
  - a. Project 2018A was discussed. Additional info being gathered.
  - b. Town Forest concept was discussed. We don't have the purview to establish what a town forest should be.
- 4) 2019 ANAC Budget and Report (7:40-8:40)
  - a. Current numbers:
    - We asked for 35k in 2018 and it was approved at Town Meeting.
    - Current balance is \$87,538.89 (although the \$35k for 2018 is not yet available - coming 12/31/18).
  - b. Sam was asked last month to do a calculation of what a 45k budget request would cost on the tax rate.
    - 2 cents on the tax rate would be approximately \$50k. Asking for \$45k would be more like 1.8 cents on the rate. 55k would be something like 2.2 cents.
    - 50K would result in a balance in 2019 of \$142,538, which should position us to complete 1-2 projects or build funds toward a future project (or town forest).
    - Works out to roughly \$1/year per homeowner per \$1,000 we request.
    - Example: a homeowner with a \$250k property could see approximately \$55/year in related taxes from ANAC's request.
  - c. We have had substantial expenses with recent successful projects (Cota, Full Belly Farm) and need to rebuild our funds so we can prepare for future projects.
    - Potential projects are on the horizon for the second half of 2019, and we could see project 2018A move forward.
    - OPAV (Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value) project on the horizon, which would facilitate inter-generational transfer of a large family farm (to keep it in farming).
  - d. Notes for what to include in the annual ANAC report
    - Full Belly closing, evaluating project 2018A.
    - Approximately \$160k went out in 2018 to conserve the Cota and Full Belly farms with additional funding from the Vermont Land Trust.
    - Expenses, etc.

- Laura will draft our notes for the town report and circulate to the group for additional comments.
- e. What amount should we request for the 2019 ANAC budget?
  - Motion from Susan to ask for \$50k. Seconded by Jaime.
    - 1. Discussion:
      - a. There are unknowns, but what makes ANAC effective is being nimble in responding to opportunities that residents bring to us. If we don't have funds available opportunities may slip away.
      - b. 50k is 2 cents on the tax rate, which is our historical rate (before ANAC became a line item in the budget).
    - Vote:
      - 1. Motion passed to ask for 50k
- 5) Confirm dates for January and February (8:50-8:55)
  - a. Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> (Town Hall)
  - b. Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> (Library)
  - c. Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> (tentative - Library)
- 6) Project 2018A (8:55 – 9:05)
  - a. Completed site visit document
- 7) Adjourn (9:00)
  - a. Jaime moved to adjourn the meeting and Nora seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jaime Schulte