

Town of Monkton
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
MEETING MINUTES
23rd January 2019, 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall
(Approved 5th February 2019)

Attendance:

Present: Laura Farrell, Jaime Schulte, Susan Mahony, Sam Burr, Nora Wolff, John Mejia

Absent: None

Guests: Project 2019A potential applicant & companion, John McNerney

Minutes Taker: Jaime Schulte

- 1) Laura called the meeting to order (7:00)
- 2) Potential project applicant (7:03-7:40)
 - a. Discussed new Project 2019A with the applicant. Applicant & companion departed at about 7:30.
 - b. Follow-up discussion on the project.
- 3) Updates (7:40 – 8:20)
 - a. Planning Commission Town Plan and Town Forest (Susan)
 - Town forest language proposed by Susan did not get included in the town plan. There will be another hearing after town meeting.
 - Related discussion:
 1. Should get our language to the Planning Commission before the next meeting, not at/after.
 2. More interest in forest parcels, which puts pressure on ANAC funds.
 - a. We have Project 2018A, Project 2019A.
 3. Need to get town input on the needs of a town forest before getting too far along with a specific project.
 4. ANAC should make a specific advisement to the select board to form a town forest committee to gather that town input, etc. Too late at this point for that committee to have a budget, but a committee can be formed at any time by the Selectboard.
 5. Is there funding (farm bill?) for municipal forests. State used to have some. Easier than for private parcels.
 6. Suggest that the Conservation Commission add a line to their section of the town report: “Please stick around after Town Meeting for an initial conversation on what a town forest might mean for Monkton.”
 - b. Discussed a potential Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV) project
- 4) Town Meeting planning (8:20 – 8:35)
 - a. Talking points
 - i. Talk about the leverage gained through ANAC funds.
 - ii. Known projects in the pipeline have substantial value and we want to build up our funds to help leverage those projects forward. In addition, more potential projects are on the horizon. These are key to preserving the character of the town, views, farms, forests, & wetlands.
 - iii. Most of the funds from these transactions are spent locally – farm improvements, local businesses.

- iv. We don't lose value off the grand list when a property is conserved, because the state picks up the difference. The value of adjacent properties may also increase.
 - b. Table contents (VLT picture of Cota's Closing, Brennan Plant Guide and Report, brochures)
 - c. Map for wildlife sightings
- 5) Confirmed date for February 5th (8:35-8:37)
- 6) Full Belly party (8:37-8:38)
 - a. Nora will talk to Sarah and Stephen about a party in the spring.
- 7) Other business (8:38-8:42)
 - a. There is an open Alternate spot for ANAC. Retire that open spot or keep/fill it. To be discussed at a later date.
 - b. Should we encourage conserved land signs to promote awareness? VLT sign, etc. Further discussion to come.
- 8) Complete Fall 2018A Project Site Visit Form. (8:42 – 9:37)
 - a. Filled out site visit document
- 9) Adjourn (9:37)
 - a. John moved to adjourn the meeting and Nora seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte