

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
7th February 2019
Monkton Town Hall**

Attendance:

Present: Laura Farrell, Chelsea Smiley, Ian Smiley, Jaime Schulte
Absent: Joe Roman
Guests: None
Minutes Taker: Jaime Schulte

- 1) Laura called the meeting to order (6:36)
- 2) Appoint note-taker for the meeting (6:30-6:35)
 - a. Jaime, at least for this meeting.
- 3) Snow tracking project for Master Naturalists (6:35 – 6:46)
 - a. Update – last weekend Chelsea & Ian did two tracking loops. Many crossing points seen (essentially where there is cover), such as on Rotax Rd. by the beaver pond.
 - b. Would like to line up the crossing observations with the Pond Brook Management Area map.
- 4) Advisory language for the Planning Commission to insert into the Town Plan (as approved by ANAC) (6:46-6:50)

Advisory language for the Town Plan as approved by ANAC version:

February 7, 2019

This is a request from the Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee and the *Monkton Conservation Commission* for new language to be added to the Monkton Town Plan.

The Town of Monkton will form a Town Forest Committee to define the town's priorities and guidelines for Town Forest land.

The Town Forest Committee would facilitate the process of establishing town forest land, working with landowners, agencies, and other town committees.

Respectfully,

ANAC
Monkton Conservation Commission

- a. Chelsea moved that we join the recommendation from ANAC as stated. Ian seconded. All were in favor.
- 5) MCC planning for 2019 (6:50-7:00)
 - a. Managed the wildlife crossing project a few years ago. Getting organized again.
 - b. Invasives

- Ongoing work to clear Wild Parsnip from Morse Park and MCS.
- The town owns four parsnip shovels, which will be kept at the library
- Ongoing work to clear Wild Parsnip from Morse Park and MCS.

- 6) Review Pond Brook Management Plan (7:00-7:53)
 - a. Need to review and update the plan (dates to 2003)
 - Still a preliminary plan?
 - Section on the history of the plan
 - Add the two Rotax parcels to the management plan
 - Note that it is improving east/west connectivity across the valley
 - b. Questions on access:
 - People, dogs, horses, etc.
 - Plant habitat
 - c. Management of invasives
 - Which ones are present? How extensive?
 - d. Next steps:
 - Need to get an electronic copy of the plan for edits.
 - Would like to look at comparable wildlife management area plans (could look at Hinesburg plans, although those are town forests)
 - Need to survey the area again (for species, invasives, animal activity/crossings, etc.)
- 7) Elect positions or wait until after Town Meeting—Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary (7:45-7:50)
 - a. Postponed until next meeting
- 8) Date for March or April (7:50-8:05)
 - a. Thursday, March 14th 2019
 - b. Thursday, April 4th 2019
- 9) Other Business (8:05-8:17)
 - a. Some discussion of a possible revival gathering for the Conservation Commission to include/recognize past members of the Commission.
- 10) Adjourn (8:17)
 - a. Chelsea moved to adjourn. Jaime seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte

Items postponed until next meeting:

- 11) Review CC Website description (7:30-7:45)
- 12) Elect positions or wait until after Town Meeting—Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary (7:45-7:50)
- 13) Other Business
- 14) Review minutes (7:55-8:00)

Attached to the Agenda Draft email on 6 February:

- 1) Draft agenda for 7 February Conservation Commission meeting*
- 2) Pond Brook Management Plan*
- 3) Draft of a request from The Nature Conservancy to ANAC, includes a map where the Rotax parcels are outlined in red but not filled in. The filled-in areas, along with the Rotax parcels, comprise the Pond Brook Management Area.*