

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 9th, 2019 6:00pm
Monkton Town Hall
(Approved November 4th, 2019)**

Members Present: Chelsea Smiley (Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Ian Smiley (Treasurer)

Members Absent: Ann Johnston Miller

Others Present: Kevin Lambert, Laura Farrell

Chelsea called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

Regular Business

- Set date/time for next meetings
 - Monday, November 4th at 6:00pm
 - Monday, December 9th at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
 - Jaime moved that we approve the minutes for September 11th, 2019. Ian seconded. No edits were made after review. All were in favor (3-0-0).

Budget Request for 2020

- Ian moved that we approve a budget request of \$500 for 2020. Jaime seconded. The specifics were reviewed (\$100 Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) Membership, \$200 AVCC Summit, \$200 for educational and conservation efforts). All were in favor (3-0-0).

Stewardship

- Pond Brook Management Area
 - Reviewed edits to the Management Plan.
 - Discussed Next Steps.

Working with Other Committees/Agencies

- Development in Monkton
 - Update from Jaime and Chelsea about meeting with the Development Review Board on October 8th, 2019.
 - Oriented the DRB on what the Conservation Commission's role is, our goals, our role in development review (advisory on conservation considerations), and discussed how we can collaborate.
 - The DRB asked that we start by being involved in a couple of current projects that are in early stages (4537 Silver Street and 202 Barnum Rd). We'll seek to learn from giving/receiving input on those projects and refine how we work together.
 - Jaime will develop a draft rubric for how to review applications, determine which ones we would want to provide input on, and how to provide that input to the DRB in a timely fashion. We will review the draft at our November meeting.
- Do we want to have a Values Mapping Event?
 - Possible collaboration with ANAC and the Town Forest Committee to gather the town's vision for what they want Monkton to be long-term from a range of perspectives.

- Planning to work with other committees on an event over the winter.

Education & Engagement

- Heard reports and discussed action steps for the following:
 - Educational Signs at Morse Park
 - Should get the facts on the best time to mow for pollinators and consider signage on what species live in the park and when/why we mow, etc.
 - Ann looked into cost: \$1,000-1,500 to mow ~14 acres of Morse Park.
 - Prep for the Conservation Commission writeup in the Town Report (due in December):
 - Education/Volunteering: parsnip management events at Morse Park/MCS
 - Engaging with the Environmental Notice Bulletins process
 - Became members of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions again
 - Collaboration: expanded collaboration with other town committees
 - Stewardship: updated the Pond Brook Management Plan
 - New iteration of the committee (with all new members since last year)
- Act 171 Webinar October 22 from 9:30 to 11:00am
 - Relates to forest fragmentation, habitat connectivity, etc.

Adjournment

- Ian moved to adjourn. Jaime seconded. All present were in favor (3-0-0). Adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Schulte
Clerk