

Town of Monkton
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 27th, 2020, at 5:00pm
Monkton Town Hall
(Approved February 4th, 2020)

Members Attending: Laura Farrell (Chair), Sam Burr (Vice Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Susan Mahony, Nora Woolf (Alternate)

Members Absent: John Mejia

Guests: None

Laura called the meeting to order at 5:00.

1) Reconsideration of the ANA Fund line item request for 2020, requested by the Selectboard.

- a. **Jaime moved that ANAC reduce our line item request for 2020 for the ANA Fund from \$50,000 to \$25,000. Susan seconded.** Discussion:
 - In the interest of managing the tax rate in a difficult year, the Selectboard has asked ANAC to reduce our budget request for 2020.
 - The existing request was for \$50,000, which would be level funding from 2019 and in line with our historical request.
 - All town functions are being asked to examine their budgets to minimize a potential tax increase.
 - Our existing fund balance is approximately \$172,000, with \$40,000 already allocated and approved by the Selectboard for the Huizenga project and \$40,000 recommended by ANAC to the Selectboard for the Last Resort Farm (Doyle-Burr OPAV) project. Both projects are expected to close (if fully approved) in the first half of 2020, leaving us with a balance of approximately \$92,000.
 - It is important for ANAC to remain in a position to act relatively quickly (same year) on projects, but there is not a substantial project backlog at this time.
 - We have gotten proposals focused more on forested land and have not moved forward on them partially due to a lack of outside funding, meaning that the Monkton contribution to such “natural areas” projects in the future could be higher than with farm projects. These projects will also likely move quicker.
- b. **Nora moved to amend the motion to change the request from \$25,000 to \$15,000. Susan seconded. Passed (4-0-1),** with Sam abstaining due to any possible perception of a conflict regarding his previously approved project at Last Resort Farm (Doyle-Burr OPAV).
- c. **Nora moved to vote on the amended motion. Susan seconded. Passed (4-0-1), with Sam abstaining** (same reason as above).

2) Review minutes

- a. Draft minutes were reviewed.

Adjournment

Sam moved to adjourn. Jaime seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 5:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Schulte
Clerk