

**Town of Monkton  
Conservation Commission  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:00pm  
Russell Memorial Library**

**Members Present:** Chelsea Smiley (Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Ian Smiley (Treasurer), Ann Johnston Miller

**Members Absent:** Kevin Lambert

**Guests Present:** Jens Hilke (Vermont Fish & Wildlife), Laura Farrell, John McNerney

Chelsea called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

### **Regular Business**

- Reviewed Agenda
- Set date/time for next meetings
  - Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm
  - Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
  - Approve Minutes for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019
    - **Ian moved that we approve the minutes for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Jaime seconded. No edits were made after review.
    - **Ian moved that we approved the minutes for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as written.** Jaime seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0).

### **Community Engagement**

- **Values Mapping**
  - Discussion with Jens Hilke to begin planning a Values Mapping Event. Some key points:
    - Make sure all the stakeholders are included. Robust cross-section of people, roles, and views. Advertise vigorously and plan the date carefully (probably a weeknight during the school year).
    - Values Mapping looks at what the community considers important about the town and places in the town. Focuses on what we have in common.
    - Most of the event would be small groups (about 8-12 people) each working with a large map of Monkton to note places they value for some reason (such as recreation, the views, wildlife, farms, historical, etc.)
    - At the end each group presents their list of categories to the room. Able to see what everyone else values about Monkton.
    - The results/maps will be consolidated and shared. This helps inform planning, what to focus on, possible areas for a Town Forest, etc.

### **Working with Other Committees/Agencies**

#### **Development Review Board (DRB) Project Reviews**

- Barnum Road Findings
  - The Monkton Conservation Commission (MCC)'s findings have been shared with the applicants and DRB. The project will be reviewed on January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- What's working well?
  - The two reviews requested by the DRB (when we met on October 8<sup>th</sup>) have now been completed and provided. They were time-intensive to produce, but a good trial run. Now is a good time to adjust the approach.

- The first review (Silver St. project) was discussed at some length during the initial Sketch Plan review for that project.
  - What needs to change?
    - There is some desire (from both the DRB and MCC) to make the process easier/simpler.
    - Discussion:
      - Most of the work of surfacing what conservation/ecological aspects are relevant to a development review proceeding could be quickly accomplished with maps and a checklist.
      - If large maps were on-hand at DRB proceedings showing how key ecological factors overlay the parcel maps it would be easy to check what is relevant to a project. This could be accompanied by standard recommendations on what the MCC recommends as best-practice for the item in question (such as setbacks from a wetland).
        - The DRB expressed interest in such maps on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
        - The MCC could help develop the list of maps needed.
        - Having a completed checklist of which items are relevant to a project (such as the presence of a wetland, Deer Wintering Area, or steep slopes) could speed up the DRB's work and raise the appropriate awareness.
          - This may be in scope when the Zoning Administrator checks new projects against the zoning rules, or the DRB could do the checks.
          - Where something shown on the maps is unclear or in dispute it could be resolved with a site visit by the DRB. The MCC would also be available to provide assistance/research/etc.
      - Jaime will bring this topic up with the DRB to assess their interest in having maps and a process like this moving forward.

### **Stewardship**

- Review Pond Brook Management Plan
  - Continued review postponed to a future meeting.

### **Consider direction and focus for Commission**

- Ahead of the next meeting members will:
  - Consider what is most important to include in the overlay maps for development review.
  - Craft an “elevator pitch” for the Values Mapping – audience: potential organizers.

### **Adjournment**

- Jaime moved to adjourn. Ian seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 7:57pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jaime Schulte**  
Clerk