

**Town of Monkton  
Conservation Commission  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:00pm  
Zoom and Phone Meeting  
(Approved May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

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

**Members Absent:** Ian Smiley (Treasurer)

**Guests Present:** Laura Farrell, Caroline Alves, Travis Guillemette

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

### **Regular Business**

- Review Agenda
- Set Time/Date of Next Meetings
  - Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00pm
  - Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
  - Approve Minutes for December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019
    - **Ann moved that we approve the minutes for December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Kevin seconded. No edits were made. All were in favor (4-0-0).**
  - Approve Minutes for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020
    - **Jaime moved that we approve the minutes for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Ann seconded. No edits were made. All were in favor (4-0-0).**

### **Stewardship**

- Reviewed draft of the Pond Brook Management Plan
  - Made a few edits during discussion.
  - Next step is to consult with the Vermont Land Trust (who owns the conservation easement) on the draft and how to monitor this area in accord with the plan.
  - Discussed gathering public input? Perhaps posting the draft for comment and inviting the public to one of our meetings to discuss it.

### **Working with Other Committees**

- Maps for committees and residents to use (such as the Development Review Board)
  - Reviewed possible map layers (such as wetlands or forest blocks)
  - Consolidated the list somewhat, matching up related layers
  - Next meeting: will continue to work on this between meetings (Jaime and Caroline). Some proof-of-concept views will be created for different maps, to see what we want to move forward with.

### **Community Engagement**

- Values Mapping
  - Reviewed Elevator Pitch & Plan next steps.
  - Will get help from the Scouts in spreading the word about the Values Mapping event (Travis Guillemette and George Parker). Reviewed the list of stakeholders to reach out to.
  - For next time:
    - Finalize outreach materials, consider a tentative date in the fall.
    - Identify a few stakeholders each of us will reach out to as a date comes into focus (post covid-19)

## **New Business**

- COVID-19 Response
  - Discussed that community engagement on conservation topics would be good, such as:
    - Local mushrooms, tree/plant ID, ramps, fiddleheads, etc.
    - Managing invasive species – education, community action days (with plenty of distancing) working on our own properties or in very small numbers at sites like Morse Park.
    - How to use iNaturalist.
  - We will make some posts along these lines on Front Porch Forum and the Monkton Facebook group.

## **Updates & Other Items**

- Agency of Natural Resources – frequently approves water bottling permits. This could be a concern for Monkton. Water resources/aquifers are not mapped and yet extraction of water is approved? We'll look at this further and perhaps contact legislators and other Conservation Commissions.
- Lewis Creek Watershed Invasives – received a letter from the Hinesburg Conservation Commission. The Lewis Creek Association will be doing a survey of aquatic invasive species in Monkton Pond and Bristol Pond. We'll obtain approval to share with the town so those interested can be involved.
- Printing of the wildlife guide – postponed.
- Current Use Brochure – postponed.
- Mark Boltz-Robinson, Monkton Tree Warden, may join us at our next meeting to talk about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) awareness and monitoring, now that EABs are presumed to be in Monkton already after being confirmed in neighboring towns.
- Travis Guillemette joined us for today's meeting as part of earning his Citizenship in the Community merit badge. Thanks for participating, Travis!

## **Adjournment**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jaime Schulte**  
Clerk