

**Town of Monkton
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 11th, 2020, at 7:00pm
Zoom & Phone Meeting**

Members Attending: Laura Farrell (Chair), Sam Burr (Vice Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Nora Woolf (Alternate), Whitney Leighton (Alternate), John Mejia

Members Absent: Susan Mahony

Guests: None

Laura called the meeting to order at 7:10.

1) Welcome to new member Whitney Leighton!

2) Positions, terms, & elections

- a. Which positions, and who to fill them? We'll proceed with at least Chair, Vice-Chair, & Clerk for today.
- b. Chair
 - **Sam moved to nominate Laura as Chair. Seconded by Jaime.** Laura is willing to serve? Yes. Discussion? Important to have continuity if we will have a change in vice-chairs. **Motion to nominate as Chair passed (5-0-1) with Laura abstaining.**
- c. Vice Chair
 - **Laura noted that Susan would like to nominate Nora for Vice Chair. Seconded by John.** Nora asked to have the role of Vice Chair described. Primarily acting as chair when the chair is unavailable. Sometimes represents ANAC at the Selectboard (projects, budgets, appointments, etc.). The Chair interfaces with our partners, such as the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. We would prefer to postpone electing a Vice Chair until Susan can join us, as Nora was interested in nominating Susan. **Sam moved to table the motion to elect a Vice Chair until the next meeting. Nora seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0).**
- d. Clerk
 - **Sam nominated Jaime as Clerk. Nora seconded.** Jaime is willing to continue as Clerk. **Motion to elect Jaime as Clerk passed (5-0-1) with Jaime abstaining.**
- e. Do we want to elect other positions at this time?
 - **Jaime nominated John as Digital Czar. Nora seconded.** Discussed tech/advertising/marketing aspects to the role. We would like to improve our online presence/content on the town website, for example. **All were in favor (5-0-1) with John abstaining.**
 - Discussed a role of Community Engagement – engaging with other committees and the community on projects of joint interest, such as a Town Forest. Will revisit at a future meeting.

3) Approve Minutes

- a. **Sam moved that we approve the minutes for April 15th, 2020 as written. Nora seconded.** No edits were made in discussion. **All were in favor (6-0-0).**

4) COVID ideas

- a. How is the summer looking for farmer's markets? How can the community help?
 - Some markets, such as Winooski, are not reopening this summer. Richmond does plan to open.
 - Farms are figuring out pick-your-own options (by appointment, etc.).
 - More people are interested in local food, farm stands, CSA, etc.
 - Strawberry festival is unclear at this time.
- b. Following an inquiry from a local farm we will assist in determining how ANAC can help the viability of farms in the current environment.
 - ANAC can help assemble an inventory of programs, funding, etc., currently available to farms.
 - Our role is usually to facilitate between landowners and conservation funding partners. It may be similar here between struggling farms and funding that can assist them.
 - We can also help by providing the community with more information on local food options to encourage buying local.

5) Updates

- a. Doyle-Burr OPAV – moving forward toward a conclusion this summer.
- b. Huizenga project 2019C – moving toward a close in June.
- c. Potential project 2019A – Laura and Sam will reach out to the potential applicant.
- d. Town Forest progress (Jaime)
 - Mostly on-hold pending some activities to gather town input and generate interest. Conservation Commission would like to pursue an online Values Mapping event, which would help move this along. We do have a person interested in joining the Town Forest Committee, who may have been appointed tonight by the Selectboard.
- e. Document storage space (Jaime)
 - Mark Boltz-Robinson has proposed that the town use a version of Google Drive, intended for municipalities, for this purpose. He will ask the Selectboard for an update.

6) Confirm Next Meeting Dates (8:15-8:20)

- a. Wednesday, June 10th @ 7:00pm
- b. Wednesday, July 8th @ 7:00pm

Adjournment

Nora moved to adjourn. Sam seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0). Adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Schulte
Clerk