

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 4th, 2020 6:00pm
Zoom and Phone Meeting**

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

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Laura Farrell, Caroline Alves

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

Regular Business

- Review Agenda
- Set Time/Date of Next Meetings
 - Thursday, July 9th, 2020 at 6:00pm
 - Thursday, August 13th, 2020 at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
 - Approve Minutes for May 7th, 2020
 - **Jaime moved that we approve the minutes for May 7th, 2020. Kevin seconded. No edits were made in discussion. All were in favor (4-0-0).**

Community Engagement

- Values Mapping
 - Ann was in contact with Jens Hilke (VT Fish & Wildlife) regarding community engagement in this pandemic period.
 - Other towns (Windham, etc.) are in progress with a virtual Values Mapping event
 - So far there is an instructional video, webinar to go through the Values Mapping process.
 - They are planning an online event to collect the input, paper form/map that can be mailed to residents upon request.
 - We'll seek materials, techniques, etc., from Jens in an upcoming meeting.
 - Kevin will import the learnings from Windham's effort into our draft document explaining the approach to Monkton residents.
 - Chelsea to email the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions for their advice/recommendations.
 - Ann was also in contact with Zapata Courage on the topic
 - She meets with conservation commissions, the general public, etc. She can assist with topics around wetlands, funding, conservation, etc. Her availability improves in the fall.

Community Engagement and Other Business

- Invasives
 - Jaime did some postings on invasive management on the Monkton Facebook page.
 - Community engagement - Jaime to set up a couple of community parsnip battles in Morse Park in June. An ideal socially-distanced outdoor way to give back to the community!
- Printing Wildlife Guides – Chelsea is working on this
- Inventory
 - Interest in an inventory of Monkton resources? Confirming vernal pools? We'll ask Zapata for some guidance. Vernal pools are probably something to survey next spring.
 - May do a Conservation Commission hike this summer.
- Further presentations?

- Ann to contact Zapata Courage about joining an upcoming meeting.
- Caroline to do a presentation for us on soils (we will invite ANAC).
- Kevin (Treasurer) spoke to Bill Joos (Monkton Treasurer). We have two accounts, both currently empty. We should have a small budget, so will work on resolving the discrepancy.

Stewardship

- Pond Brook Management Plan update
 - Vermont Land Trust (the conservation easement holder) is close to approval (conducting a site visit) and then the Plan comes back to the Conservation Commission. If we approve the final product it would go to the Selectboard for approval and then posting for public comment.

Working with Other Committees

Maps (for DRB, etc.)

- Reviewed initial concept maps and plan next steps. Jaime to meet with Caroline before our next meeting to refine what we'd like to ask the Regional Planning Commission to help us with.
- Act 171 map: we'll look at what other towns have accomplished so far and see what we can learn.

Adjournment

- Kevin moved to adjourn. Jaime seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Schulte
Clerk