

**Town of Monkton
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 17th, 2020, at 7:00pm
Zoom & Phone Meeting**

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

Members Absent:

Guests: None

Laura called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

1) Quick Robert's Rules review.

2) Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. <http://monktonvt.com/boards-and-committees/anac/anac-minutes/>
- b. **Jaime moved to discuss the minutes for October 21st, 2020. Laura seconded.** No edits were made in discussion. **Laura moved to approve the minutes of October 21st, 2020 as amended. Susan seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0).**

3) Updates:

- a. Covid assistance progress
 - No new updates. We'll watch for news on assistance programs for farms, etc.
- b. Recently completed projects
 - Doyle-Burr OPAV – would like a gathering in the spring when times are better and warmer
 - Huizenga – ANAC held a celebration with the family to hang the conserved land sign. Look for a larger gathering for the town post-covid.
- c. Post spreadsheet in ANAC Archives?
 - Discussed creating space on the town webpage to show completed projects, related numbers, etc., to help explain ANAC's work and celebrate successes. Need to update the numbers with recent projects. Clarify how the Doyle-Burr OPAV project is a different type of conservation project.
- d. Potential project 2019A (Laura) – potential site visit on hold due to Covid-19.
- e. Values Mapping
 - The live online event was very successful with about 30 residents attending.
 - There is a physical map at the church on the ridge (front door) for those who would like to participate and an online map available at mccvm.com. These are available through the end of next week.
- f. Town Forest progress
 - No new updates
- g. Document storage space
 - No new updates

4) Election

- a. Decided we don't need additional positions at this time.
- b. Alternates – Sam would like to be an alternate. Nora indicated being an alternate is most realistic with her current schedule. Whitney is willing to move into a regular member spot.

5) 2021 Line item budget request

- a. What should our budget line item request be?
- b. As a group we anticipate increasing development pressure on Monkton (covid-related migration, etc.) and that the pace of conservation projects could also increase as a result. We would need the funding to act quickly to support Monkton residents who would like to conserve their land vs. develop. We may see a shift toward natural areas from agricultural projects.
- c. The request of \$15k for 2020 was a significant reduction from the \$50k requested in 2019. Our ANA Fund balance was reduced by \$80k in 2020 by completed projects.
- d. **John moved that ANAC request a level-funded appropriation of \$15k for the ANA Fund. Susan seconded. No additional discussion. The vote was (5-0-1) with Laura abstaining.**
- e. Will finalize the wording for our budget request by our next meeting.

6) 2020 Town Report

- a. Initial notes on completed projects:
 - Doyle-Burr OPAV (\$40k)
 - Huizenga (\$40k)

7) Request from The Planning Commission

- a. Will increase focus on this topic going forward (Act 171, etc.).

8) Confirm next meeting dates

- a. Wednesday, December 7th @ 7:00pm
- b. Wednesday, January 13th @ 7:00pm

9) Review Minutes

- a. Minutes were reviewed.

Adjournment

Nora moved to adjourn. Whitney seconded. All were in favor. (6-0-0). Adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Schulte
Clerk