

**Town of Monkton  
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 7:00pm  
Zoom & Phone Meeting**

**Members Attending:** Laura Farrell (Chair), Susan Mahony (Vice-Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Whitney Leighton, John Mejia (Digital Czar)

**Members Absent:** Nora Woolf (Alternate), Sam Burr (Alternate)

**Guests:** None

**Laura called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.**

**1) Minutes**

- a. John moved to consider the minutes of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Jaime seconded.** Some review took place. **Laura moved to approve the minutes of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as written. Susan seconded.** No additional discussion. **Four were in favor (4-0-1) with John abstaining.**

**2) Updates:**

- a. Covid assistance progress
  - No new programs.
- b. Thank you notes to the Doyle-Burrs and Huizengas. Laura will send cards.
- c. Post spreadsheet in ANAC Archives
  - **Laura moved to post the spreadsheet of ANAC expenditures on the Monkton website. Susan seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (5-0-0).**
- d. Infographic – data still needed?
  - Laura will send John updated numbers for the infographic
- e. How do we go into executive session in Zoom if needed?
  - Can use a waiting room or breakout room
- f. Potential project 2019A (Laura)
  - Laura spoke with the landowner about recent developments.
- g. Potential project 2021A
  - An initial inquiry received from a landowner about how ANAC could help them.
- h. Values Mapping
  - Values Mapping – completed in November and the data is being assembled. The Conservation Commission will be following up with Jens Hilke of ANR.
- i. Town Forest progress
  - No update.
- j. Document storage space
  - Jaime to follow up with the Selectboard after Town Meeting. Multiple committees are looking for cloud storage.

**3) Raven Ridge use rate**

- a. Foot traffic seems over-capacity and parking continues to be an issue. Dogs are present (but not allowed). Laura contacted The Nature Conservancy, but so far the advertising of the location has not been reduced.
- b. Could the Conservation Commission consider Monkton's role in enforcing the issue of dogs being present? Perhaps a sign directing visitors to the new Monkton dog park. Need to rope off the bobcat denning areas and monitor that for signs of dog/foot traffic. There should be

someone from The Nature Conservancy helping manage the presence of dogs on the weekends, etc.

- c. Whitney will also contact The Nature Conservancy.

**4) 2020 Town Report**

- a. Completed the 2020 writeup for the Town Report.
- b. **Susan moved that we accept the 2020 Town Report writeup as revised. Laura seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (5-0-0).**

**5) Request from The Planning Commission**

The PC is looking for input for revisions to Monkton's Unified Planning Document (zoning regulations) for improved zoning and subdivision regulations.

- a. From ANAC's perspective what is important to have accounted for in the Unified Planning Document? Need to account for the Pond Brook Management Area, wetland complex extending from Rotax Rd/Raven Ridge, improve reference maps for different layers like soil types and habitat connectivity, and consider how the UPD could better reflect the Town Plan on these topics. Need to update planning/zoning guidelines to support and protect Monkton's ecological treasures. Current zoning does not sufficiently address the long-term implications of climate change, impact to riparian areas and connectivity, and the importance of forest blocks and connectivity.
- b. Here is a little bit on the pressure that Monkton could be facing in the near term, and why ANAC is concerned that there might be significant development before ecological concerns are addressed properly:

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/the-new-vermonters-fleeing-covid-19-newcomers-find-temporary-or-permanent-refuge-in-the-green-mountains/Content?oid=31176261>

- c. We have 4-6 months to provide recommendations.
- d. Samples of how to word concerns for the UPD. Check out Appendix B on p 36:

<https://anr.vermont.gov/sites/anr/files/co/planning/documents/guidance/Act171Guidance.pdf>

- e. We could collaborate with the Conservation Commission who is drafting an Act 171 map and related maps.

**6) Confirm next meeting dates**

- a. Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm
- b. Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

**7) Review Minutes**

- a. Minutes were reviewed.

**Adjournment**

- b. Jaime moved to adjourn. John seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 9:01pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jaime Schulte**  
**Clerk**