

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 11th, 2021 6:00pm
Zoom and Phone Meeting**

Members Present: Chelsea Smiley (Chair), Ann Johnston Miller (Vice-Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Kevin Lambert (Treasurer), Caroline Alves

Members Absent:

Guests Present: Prem Linskey

Chelsea called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Regular Business

- Reviewed agenda
- Set Time/Date of Next Meetings
 - Monday, March 15th, 2021 at 6:00pm
 - Thursday, April 8th, 2021 at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
 - **Caroline moved to approve the minutes for January 14th, 2021 as written. Kevin seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (5-0-0).**

Act 171

- Kate Kelly, of the Hinesburg Conservation Commission, can join us in March and/or do a presentation for the community on the Lewis Creek watershed. We would plan to record it as a webinar to share. This would assist our push to learn about and educate the community on the natural resources in our town and surrounding areas.
- Education is a key part of Act 171...to raise awareness of the natural resources we have in Monkton. That goes in hand with assessing the community's support for protecting aspects of natural resources and to what extent.
- Kevin has prepared some draft materials on how we might communicate and survey the town, which we reviewed.
- Andy Wood, of the Agency of Natural Resources will join our next meeting to discuss the progression from our Values Mapping event (which was mostly about human uses of the land) to gathering community priorities on protecting the ecological resources found here. It is essential to balance protection of Monkton's ecological richness with human uses and landowner interests.
- Eventually the community's priorities (along with mapping of the priority areas) will be given to the Planning Commission to inform Act 171-related policy/zoning that aligns to the previously-approved Town Plan.
- Approve meeting minutes for the Act 171 sub-committee's meeting on January 30th.
 - **Ann moved to approve the minutes for January 30th, 2021 as written. Kevin seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-1)**, with Chelsea abstaining.

Pond Brook Management Plan

- Continued to revise and review the Pond Brook Management Plan. The plan is (over)due for an update. We are close to completing the work and anticipate finishing at our March meeting.
- The final draft needs approval from the Conservation Commission, the Vermont Land Trust (conservation easement holder), and the Selectboard.
- **Ann moved to accept the revisions made tonight to the Pond Brook Management Plan. Kevin seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (5-0-0).**

Morse Park

- This might be a good time to engage with the Rec Committee about a management plan for Morse Park, before the warmer months arrive. The Conservation Commission did attend a meeting of the Rec Committee in 2020 and the Rec Committee is receptive to reviewing a proposed management plan.
 - Ideas on what to include in a management plan:
 - Dates and locations for “no mow” in the park. Mowing at certain times can support wildlife (particularly birds, monarch butterflies, etc.) and discourage invasive plant species.
 - Educational component (perhaps signage) on wildlife and plants.
 - Guidelines for managing:
 - How to address wild parsnip, buckthorn, honeysuckle, etc.
 - Management methods for each & monitoring approach
 - Wildlife management
 - Chelsea to work on the wildlife content and Jaime will work on the invasive plants content. Kevin will work the content into a draft.

Adjournment

- Jaime moved to adjourn. Caroline seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk