

**Town of Monkton  
Conservation Commission  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 6:00pm  
Zoom and Phone Meeting**

**Members Present:** Chelsea Smiley (Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Kevin Lambert (Treasurer), Caroline Alves

**Members Absent:** Ann Johnston Miller (Vice-Chair)

**Guests Present:** Laura Farrell (MCC advisor), Prem Linskey (Monkton)

Chelsea called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Regular Business**

- Reviewed agenda
- Set Time/Date of Next Meetings
  - Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm
  - Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
  - **Kevin moved to approve the minutes of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as written. Jaime seconded. No additional discussion. All were in favor (4-0-0).**

Updates

- ENB Permit updates
  - ENB Permit on Mountain Road
- Follow up from Lewis Creek Presentation
  - Ivor Hughes is following up for the Planning Commission.
  - We will learn more about the River Corridors Protections program as it relates to Act 171.
- Update from Selectboard Meeting
  - Our funding request in support of the Field Naturalist project to survey areas of Monkton was approved.
  - The Selectboard approves of collaboration between the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Committee on a management plan for Morse Park.
- Treasurer's Update
  - \$356 of our 2020 budget was used for the Values Mapping project. Some additional funds/materials were donated to that project by Kevin.
  - Our current budget is believed to be \$600.

Act 171

- Update from working group
  - Working with regional planning on mapping options
  - Reached out to Andy Wood and Zapata Courage about wetlands protections
- Timeline: To be voted on in May – Need to have info to the Planning Commission by September
- We will form two working groups: Engagement & Recommendations
  - Engagement (with the community)
    - Education and outreach with the community, gathering community feedback
      - What is Act 171 about and how does it relate to the future of Monkton?
      - Outcomes from the Values Mapping exercise last year
      - Learning about Monkton's natural resources
      - What Monkton might look like in various future development/zoning scenarios
      - Members of this working group: Kevin, Chelsea, Prem (once part of the MCC)
      - First meeting: Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm
  - Recommendations (maps & proposed zoning/town plan language)

- Drafting language for the Planning Commission & related maps
- Identifying the areas of Monkton that are important for this project (forest blocks, etc.)
- Evaluating what other towns have done, best practices, etc.
- Develop priorities for what to protect and how
- Prepare recommendations and mapping to show the resources and areas in Monkton
- Members of this working group: Jaime, Caroline, Laura (advisory)
- First meeting: Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00am
- Goals for what the working groups will complete by our regular meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>:
  - Recommendations group
    - Gather what other towns have for town plan/zoning language /compare with Act 171 guidance
    - Start work on draft language
    - Select map layers/resources – gather examples
  - Engagement group
    - Brainstorm Presentations/Engagement ideas
    - Have a list of engagement activities & some progress toward scheduling & outreach

### **Morse Park Management Plan**

- Reviewed and updated the draft management plan.
- **Kevin moved to approve the draft Morse Park Management Plan and refer it to the Monkton Recreation Committee for review. Caroline seconded. No additional discussion. All were in favor (4-0-0).**
- Update from Selectboard and Rec Committee Meetings
  - The Recreation Committee anticipates no difficulty with having mowing occur after August 15<sup>th</sup> as proposed in the draft management plan.

### **Pollinators**

- The Regional Conservation Partnership’s Pollinator Pathway Project is creating kits for families and kids to grow plants suitable for pollinator species. The project is looking to partner with Conservation Commissions. Some town Conservation Commissions have suggested partnering with schools or libraries.
- Kevin and Prem have families and students they work with who would be able to help with assembly and distribution.
- **Jaime moved that the Conservation Commission partner with the Regional Conservation Partnership’s Pollinator Pathway Project. Caroline seconded. No additional discussion. All were in favor (4-0-0).**

### **Pond Brook Management Plan**

- Update on a recent site visit from Laura.

### **Adjournment**

- Kevin moved to adjourn. Jaime seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jaime Schulte  
Clerk