

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 8th, 2021 6:00pm
In-Person at the Town Hall and on Zoom/Phone**

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

Members Absent: Prem Linskey

Guests Present: None

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

Regular Business

- Reviewed Agenda
- Set Time/Date of Next Meetings
 - Monday, August 16th, 2021 at 6:00pm
 - Wednesday, September 15th, 2021 at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
 - **Ann moved to approve the minutes of June 10th, 2021 as amended. Jaime seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**

Updates

- Environmental Notice Board (ENB) – Ann noted there is a new permit on Mountain Rd.
- Amphibian Locator (Prem) – postponed to next meeting
- Morse Park Plan – will resume work on this in September and re-engage with the Rec Committee
- Parsnip Pulls – will have a couple more sessions in July. Suggestion to advertise on FPF as well as Facebook.
- LDD caterpillar/moth (formerly known as “gypsy moth”) management – will coordinate with the Tree Warden, Mark Boltz-Robinson, on education for the community on how to manage this invasive species. The opportunity to clear egg masses on trees should extend from late summer through spring and reduce the severity of an outbreak next summer. We can also educate the community on what to expect next year and how to prevent some tree damage. Jaime will reach out to Mark.

Eric Sorensen Presentation

- Write-up:

Monkton's Ecological Landscape - Community Presentation with Eric Sorenson

Wednesday July 21st @ 6:00pm in the MCS gym

Eric Sorenson is the Community Ecologist at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department where he is responsible for describing and classifying Vermont's natural communities. He is a co-author of *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland* - a richly illustrated book describing Vermont's ecological settings including geology, soils, climate, plants, and animals. In recent years, with others, he has focused on how to conserve the incredible biological diversity of our state through the Vermont Conservation Design. Join us for a presentation about Monkton natural communities and find out why this community ecologist finds our town so unique and special.

- Advertising
 - Will advertise on FPF (Jaime and Ann) and Facebook (Chelsea)

- Will also send to the Addison Independent and Hinesburg paper(s).
- Event Logistics
 - 5:30 setup (chairs, etc.). Will determine if a projector, etc., is needed.
 - Will record the presentation and/or have it on Zoom, if possible.
 - Chelsea to reach out to NEAT TV. Jaime to work on a backup option.

Act 171

- Finished the draft “What is Act 171?” write-up and will look to turn it into a brochure. Jaime to discuss with John Mejia.
- We plan to update the Planning Commission on our progress by the end of August
 - Will share progress on mapping, recommendations, etc.
 - Possible next steps:
 - Assistance from the Planning Commission on gathering community feedback
 - Consider hiring a consultant to project what future development in Monkton could look like with current zoning & facilitate community engagement on future land use
 - Consider hiring a consultant to map habitat connectivity in Monkton & facilitate community engagement
- Timeline: need to have info to the Planning Commission by September

Pond Brook Management Plan: Appendices

- Postponed to next meeting.

Adjournment

- Caroline moved to adjourn. Ann seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk