

**Town of Monkton
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 4th, 2021, at 6:00pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom/Phone**

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: Ann Johnston-Miller

Laura called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

1) Minutes

- a) Approve minutes of July 22nd meeting uploaded to this link
 - (a) <http://monktonvt.com/boards-and-committees/anac/anac-minutes/>
- ii) **Whitney moved to accept the minutes of July 22nd, 2021 as written. Susan seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0)**, with Sam and John not having joined the meeting yet.

2) Updates

- a) Covid assistance progress – ARPA – any new ideas?
 - i) Funding for easements to protect high value habitat connectivity.
 - ii) Should have a wildlife crossing on Mountain Rd. at the Pond Brook road crossing south of State's Prison Hollow Rd. Rather than a large culvert it should be a bridge with adequate span for wildlife to cross under the road without swimming.
- b) Town Forest progress – the Town Forest Committee will be holding two public information and input sessions on Thursday, September 9th and Saturday, September 11th with the goal of understanding what the community would value in a Town Forest to inform the eventual project to create one (no specific parcel yet).
- c) Document storage space – no recent movement from the Selectboard on the topic.
- d) Field Naturalist – Chris Ajello is continuing work on properties in Monkton.
 - i) Chris is making good progress and assessing what is left to survey. Discussed who might be able to arrange introductions to some landowners to ask if he can access their lands to assess what natural communities and features might be present there.
 - ii) Sam Burr and John Mejia joined the meeting during this portion around the 7:00pm hour.

3) Project 2019A – site visit Saturday, September 18th, 9:00am. Location still TBD.

4) Request from The Planning Commission (zoning recommendations, etc.)

- a) Continued to assemble and discuss overall content on topics like invasives, water, and PUDs.
- b) The Planning Commission would like to see what we've put together and recommendations to-date at their September 7th meeting.

5) Confirm next meeting dates

- a) Wednesday, August 18th, 7:00pm - cancelled
- b) Monday, August 30th, 7:00pm – cancelled
- c) Saturday, September 18th, 9:00am – site visit
- d) Wednesday, September 22nd, 6:30pm – regular meeting

Adjournment

Whitney moved to adjourn. John seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0). Adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk