

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 14th, 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: None

Guests Present: Laura Farrell

Chelsea called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

Regular Business

- Review Agenda
- Set Time/Date of Next Meetings
 - Monday, November 8th, 2021 at 6:00pm
 - Monday, December 13th, 2021 at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
 - **Ann moved to approve the minutes of September 15th, 2021 as written. Jaime seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**

Updates

- Report back from MPC meeting
 - Ann and Jaime met with the MPC on September 21st. Ann reviewed our various community engagement and education over the past year to raise awareness of Act 171 and related topics. The Values Mapping effort, Andy Wood on Act 171, Kate Kelly on Watersheds, Zapata Courage on Wetlands, Eric Sorensen on Monkton's Ecological landscape, etc. There was recognition of this effort and praise for the quality of presenters and content.
 - Jaime reviewed our three maps with the MPC. They understood and appreciated them very much. Some discussion took place on how to proceed toward community understanding/engagement on the topics. Our charter from ~18 months ago was discussed along with questions on next steps. Are we as the MCC engaging with the community on the maps/zoning? That was requested in the original charter. In discussion it was noted that we recommended some professional facilitation of that and the Conservation Commission considers its work on the topic largely complete at this time. Outcome: ownership of on-going community engagement as this becomes more specific in Town Plan or Zoning will be owned by the MPC.
 - It was discussed that it will likely take an additional 2 years or so to complete Act 171 related changes in the Town Plan and zoning.
 - Materials reviewed were sent to the MPC.
- Senix Collaboration
 - Need more information on potential wildlife impact of the proposed stream height monitoring technology (ultrasonic frequency) that might be used at location(s) in Monkton. We will recommend obtaining advice from Alyssa Bennet, Vermont's Bat Biologist and Kent McFarland at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. Ann will reach out to Kate Kelly.
- Aquatic Species presentation
 - Proposed presentation for the community on the results of the Boat Launch Stewards program to manage invasive species at Bristol and Monkton Pond.
 - Will ask Kate Kelly to propose dates for the presentation.

- **Jaime moved to empower Chelsea to complete a letter of support for the Boat Launch Stewards program on behalf of the Commission. Caroline seconded. No further discussion. All were in favor (4-0-0).**
- Monkton Buildout map (review email from Ivor Hughes)
 - Reviewed the materials from 2006. An update would be helpful in facilitating a community discussion on what Monkton should look like in the future as zoning evolves with Act 171, etc.
- Discuss next initiatives (and recruitment)
 - Chelsea is moving to Charlotte and will step down from the Commission in November.
 - Considered options for changes to officer roles. Chelsea is currently Chair and Treasurer.
 - Need to recruit new members! Chelsea will post to create visibility.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk