

**Town of Monkton
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 3rd, 2021, at 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom/Phone**

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

Laura called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

- 1) Minutes
 - a) Approve minutes of October 19th
 - i) **Jaime moved to accept the minutes of October 19th, 2021 as written. Whitney seconded.**
No additional discussion. **All were in favor (5-0-0).**
- 2) Project 2019A – site visit report and next steps
 - a) Discussed timeline for presenting the application and site visit report to the Selectboard.
- 3) 2019A application
 - a) Laura will introduce the project to the Selectboard, discuss estimated cost, etc.
 - b) Once we have a final figure, completed site visit report, and application we can consider approval and referral of the project to the Selectboard.
 - c) The project may be completed in 2021.
- 4) 2021 Operating Budget. *Due Dec 1st*
 - a) May need a small amount for printing, events, etc., in the coming year.
 - b) **John moved to request an operating budget of \$500 for the coming year. Jaime seconded.**
No additional discussion. **All were in favor (5-0-0).**
- 5) 2021 Line item amount – what do we need to know? *Due in Jan 2021*
 - a) Historically this was 2 cents on the tax dollar and then a similar figure of \$50k/year to the ANA Fund. In recent years this was reduced to 35k and then 15k in the past two years.
 - b) We do have at least one substantial project that is expected to occur in 2022 in addition to the 2019A project. There have been projects in the past that needed to occur in a short amount of time. There is also the possibility of contributing in some way to a Town Forest project in 2022.
- 6) 2021 ANAC report for Town Report. *Due in Jan 2021*
 - a) 2019A project
 - b) Collaborated with Chris Ajello (field naturalist) on an inventory of natural areas in a large region of Monkton
 - c) Worked to consolidate town plan and zoning language from Vermont towns that have recently updated their zoning regs to address Act 171 and other ecological considerations. We also made recommendations for upcoming revisions to the Monkton Town Plan and zoning regulations, at the request of the Planning Commission.
 - d) Jaime to review meeting minutes from 2021 for additional items
- 7) Updates : 1-2 minutes each
 - a) Covid assistance progress – ARPA

- i) Will work toward a proposal for having a professional assessment/mapping of fine habitat connectivity in Monkton.
- b) Town Forest progress
 - i) Jaime provided updates on the committee's activity/direction.
- c) Document storage space
 - i) Mark Boltz-Robinson is working with the Selectboard
- d) Raven Ridge update (invasive loosestrife vs native winged loosestrife)
 - i) The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is working on invasive loosestrife.
 - ii) Susan asked about trees down on the trails and who maintains them. Susan will reach out to TNC.
- e) Field Naturalist
 - i) Laura has been in contact with Chris Ajello. The report from his fieldwork this summer is in progress. He can share initial findings at our December meeting.
 - ii) Chris will also give a talk for Monkton in the spring.
- 8) Other business
 - a) Sam suggested that ANAC should keep a list of the farms in Monkton
 - i) Could ask in the town report for residents to identify all the farms
 - ii) Sam will start working on a list
- 9) Confirm dates and locations/zoom - @ 6:30 or 7pm?
 - a) Wednesday, 17th November 2021, 6:30pm-8:00pm
 - b) Wednesday, 8th December 2021, 6:30pm-8:00pm
 - c) Wednesday, 15th December 2021, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Reviewed Minutes

Adjournment

Jaime moved to adjourn. Susan seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 9:02pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk**