

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 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: None

Guests Present: Kate Kelly (Lewis Creek Association, Hinesburg Conservation Commission, etc.), Laura Farrell, Debra Sprague

Aquatic Species presentation Kate Kelly

- Lewis Creek Association is excited to announce that we will be holding a presentation on the results of our boat launch steward program at Bristol & Monkton Ponds, in collaboration with the Bristol and Monkton Conservation Commissions, and thanks to funding from Lake Champlain Basin Program/NEIWPCC. This presentation will discuss what aquatic invasive species are, how many boats were inspected at the ponds this summer by our stewards, detailed results of what they found, how you can help minimize the spread of these species and plans for next summer.
- Additional attendees at the Aquatic Species presentation: Matt Gorton (Conservation Biologist, Ferrisburg Conservation Commission), Barbara Forauer, Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Boat Launch Steward program), Peter Waite, Marc Beaupre, Marian Mumford.
- Matt Gorton presented on invasive plant species found in the study, some of which are found only in Monkton Pond or only in Bristol pond. Discussed how these plants spread and are managed. We can do our part by making sure boats are clean and dry before entering/leaving a body of water. The young of some invasives, like Zebra Mussels, can survive in a drop of water or are otherwise not visible to the eye. That's why it's important to Clean, Drain, & Dry your boat!
- Would like volunteers to help keep the Boat Launch Steward program going next season and into the future. It's an educational role and helping boaters inspect their boats for plants and water before boats go in and after coming out. Also helping manage invasive plants with the aid of a grant that has been applied for. The response has been very positive from the community.
- Meg Modley mentioned that the major way invasive species come in is by overland transport on a boat. Important to know where boats are coming from, such as out of state or invasive hot spots.
- The presentation will be posted on the Conservation Commission page on the Monkton website soon.

Ann called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Senix Collaboration

- Discussed this proposal to monitor stream rise in storm events using a ping from under a bridge to measure water level. The concern is possible impact to species from the ping frequency, particularly bats.
- **Chelsea moved to ask Laura to arrange further study of bat presence at the proposed locations at the appropriate time of year. Jaime seconded.** No further discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**

Regular Business

- Reviewed Agenda
- Set Time/Date of Next Meetings
 - Monday, December 13th, 2021 at 6:00pm
 - Monday, January 10th, 2022 at 6:00pm
- Approve Minutes
 - **Jaime moved to approve the minutes of October 14th, 2021 as written. Caroline seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**

New Business

- Introduce new attendee who is interested in joining the Commission. Welcome, Debra Sprague!
- Discuss recruitment and future of CC, Possible restructuring of CC
 - Chelsea is moving to Charlotte and will step down from the Commission in November. Need a new Chair and Treasurer.
 - Ann & Chelsea have been recruiting!
 - Could another committee merge in with the Conservation Commission, such as Town Forest? This might make more sense after a town forest is established.
 - Debra is interested in joining and will reach out the Selectboard with our support.
 - Jaime knows of two other people who may be interested in joining and will reach out.
 - Presentation scheduling: Caroline will reach out to Kristen Underwood on flood-readiness topics.
- Budget request for 2022
 - 2022 budget:
 - AVCC membership - \$100
 - Sending members to events/conferences. - \$200
 - Other activities (hosting a town event, etc.) - \$200
 - Educational opportunities (presenter, etc.) - \$200
 - **Chelsea moved to approve a 2022 budget request in the amount of \$700. Caroline seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**
 - **Chelsea moved to amend the budget request to include \$100 for community tools. Jaime seconded.** Discussion was that we could acquire some weed wrench or similar tools, as was previously done with the specialized parsnip shovels. Other towns have done this. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**
 - Chelsea will send our budget request to the Selectboard (she remains a member of the board until the week of Thanksgiving).

The Conservation Commission greatly appreciates Chelsea Smiley's service to the town, hard work on behalf of the Commission, and her able leadership as Chair over these past two years. She will be missed!

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk