

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Monday November 8, 2021  
(Approved 11/22/21)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:00pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher(chair), Bill Martin, Marikate Kelley, John McNerney, Paul Low

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt(recording secretary), Laura Farrell, Josh Giard

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

none

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

APPROVE MINUTES

**B. Martin moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by P. Low. Vote passed 4-0-1. J. McNerney abstained.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**J. Mcnerney moved to approve AP 11019 in the amount of \$98,579.18. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor**

**J. McNerney moved to approve AP 11030 in the amount of \$288,079.87. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

**B. Martin moved to approve PR 11108 in the amount of \$8,770.62. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

**J. McNerney moved to approve S. Pilcher writing a letter in support of the Addison County Community Trust grant request for improvements at the Vaughn trailer park. Seconded by M. Kelley. All voted in favor.**

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN GRANT LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT LETTER

S. Pilcher says two things the town does under emergency management to increase the amount of money the town gets from FEMA is 1) a local emergency operation plan, and 2) a hazard mitigation plan which is only good for five years.

**M. Kelley moved to approve to commit \$2,787.50 for the local match portion of a Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant. Seconded by P. Low. All voted in favor.**

#### ANAC FUND REQUEST

L. Farrell says ANAC is hoping to preserve a forest block and is coming to the Select Board with some early information. There is a 300 acre area of land between Rotax Road and Hollow Road owned by Peter Close and Charles Weisenbach's beneficiary. L. Farrell explained that the properties are important for habitat connectivity—especially as Raven Ridge has been getting heavily used, including by dogs which deter many wildlife species. Two wildlife movement corridors identified in the town plan cross on these properties. It is contiguous with Raven Ridge through a piece of conserved swampland. There is state mapped clayplain forest on the Close property. Both properties have shagbark hickory, which hosts Indiana bats—one of Vermont's two Federally endangered bat species. ANAC will be asking asking for \$45,000 to reimburse for the appraisals and fund the easement endowments with New England Forestry Foundation. The easement ensures the land will not be developed, not mined, and will continue as a forest with a management plan. S. Pilcher asks if there will be recreational access, L. Farrell explained that that is not part of the easement; this project is wildlife and forest oriented. It is possible the project will close by the end of the year. ANAC will provide more info when they officially make the request for funding.

#### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Two people replied to the ad for new DRB members. There was discussion about the number of members needed and which number defines a quorum. M. Kelley determined that a quorum is based on the number of positions on a board. Scott Gordon is on leave. Betsy Brown has resigned. There was discussion about how to help the DRB convene with a quorum. S. Gordon is not expected to return from leave before his term is up and can be re-appointed at that time if he is interested. The Selectboard expressed appreciation for Scott's contributions to the DRB and encouraged him to reapply once he returns.

J. Giard is currently an alternate and is interested in becoming a full member. S. Pilcher mentioned there is one other person definitely interested and another who is considering.

**J. McNerney moved to remove Scott Gordon from the DRB. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

#### ARPA FUNDS STATUS

S. Pilcher mentioned an advocate has come forward for the restoration of the old town hall. It's not clear whether this would be eligible for ARPA funding, but it may be possible under the right circumstances. How can we improve affordable housing in Monkton? Create a land bank? How do you encourage multiple family dwellings? We could consider using funding to develop a request for a proposal for town water and septic. P. Low asks how to determine a gauge to help those who need it the most? B. Martin says there are existing standards for defining low income. Then individuals need to apply. M. Kelley says there is a huge mental health impact from the pandemic. Does Monkton have a proposal that speaks for that? Can the Board find an advocate for that? M. Kelley expressed gratitude that S. Pilcher has gotten the ball rolling.

## 2022 BUDGET PROCESS

The Board is still waiting for numbers from many to start making progress. There is a suggestion to invest in the existing grader rather than purchase a new one.

## NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

A water bar has been installed to help prevent erosion. There are still a few things outstanding on the punch list. There is now a deed with the easements and an affidavit for the Russell family member to sign to receive the keys to the Russell Memorial Library.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### RML PROPOSAL REGARDING ROOM DESIGNATED FOR EXPANSION AT NEW TOWN OFFICES

no action taken

### DISTURBANCE OF SURVEY PIN IN ROW – MCKENZIE

B. Martin is negotiating a discount on replacement of the pin. It may be a good idea to make a policy for future pin placement outside of ROW.

### SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

### TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

no action taken

### CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

no action taken

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The library sign will go parallel to the road. S. Pilcher expresses gratitude to B. Martin for the follow up. There was some discussion about sound dampening.

## DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 22, 2021 7pm at the new town offices

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**J. McNerney moved to adjourn. Seconded by B. Martin.  
Adjourned at 8:25pm.**