

Town of Monkton
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 19th, 2022, at 6:30pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom/Phone

(Approved: 3rd February, 2022)

Members Attending: Laura Farrell (Chair), Susan Mahony (Vice-Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk)

Members Absent: John Mejia (Digital Czar), Sam Burr (Alternate), Whitney Leighton (on leave)

Guests: None

Laura called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

1) Minutes

- a) **Jaime moved to accept the minutes of January 12th, 2021 as amended. Susan seconded.**
There was no additional discussion. **All were in favor (3-0-0).**

2) 2019A application - no new updates.

3) 2021 Line item amount

- a) Discussed the upcoming meeting with the Selectboard about our line item request of \$65,000 and how we expect projects and their funding to play out over the coming year. The ANA Fund balance has been declining in recent years overall and may continue to decline with projects expected to occur over the next two to three years.
- b) Discussed the value of conservation to the town for ecological integrity, wildlife corridors, water quality, and climate resilience (extreme weather). These improve quality of life for residents and preserve the scenic character of Monkton.

4) Discussion questions to propose for Town Meeting

- a) How much development does Monkton want? There is growing development pressure and current zoning may not be sufficient to protect Monkton's rural character and rich ecological landscape. Now is the time to weigh in on Monkton's future landscape. Does the town want to have a discussion to guide the balance of growth and maintaining ecological, scenic, and cultural values?
- b) Discussed asking the town to approve funding for a professional report that integrates ground-truthed fine-scale habitat connectivity and sensitive ecological areas. This would provide the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board with the information needed to appropriately update zoning and development review. This is a possible project that ARPA or other relief funding could apply to, depending on funding guidelines. Reports of this nature would cost approximately \$15-25k which, for context, is less than 4% of Monkton's ARPA allocation.
- c) **Laura moved to ask the Selectboard to consider putting these two questions before the town at Town Meeting. Susan seconded. No further discussion. All were in favor (3-0-0).**

- 5) Town Meeting Planning
 - a) The ANAC web page is up to date.
 - b) Format of Town Meeting is to be determined.
- 6) 2021 ANAC report for Town Report.
 - a) Completed edits to ANAC's report.
 - b) **Jaime moved to approve the 2021 ANAC Report for the Monkton Town Report as edited. Susan seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (3-0-0).**
- 7) Confirm dates and locations/zoom
 - a) Thursday, 3rd February 2022, 6:30pm-8:30pm
 - b) Tuesday, 15th February 2022, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- 8) Reviewed minutes.

Adjournment

Jaime moved to adjourn. Susan seconded. All were in favor (3-0-0). Adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk