

**Town of Monkton  
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 3rd, 2022, at 6:30pm  
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom/Phone**

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

**Members Absent:** Whitney Leighton (on leave)

**Guests:** Ann Johnston-Miller (Conservation Commission)

**Laura called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.**

**1) Minutes**

- a) **Sam moved to consider the minutes of January 19th, 2022. Jaime seconded.** There was some discussion. **Laura moved to accept the minutes of January 19th, 2022 as written. Jaime seconded.** There was no additional discussion. **All were in favor (3-0-2),** with Sam and John abstaining (not present at the last meeting).

**2) Whose terms are up?**

- a) Susan, Sam, & John's terms are up this year. John would like to continue. Sam still has substantial duties with the Listers, so would like to step away from ANAC at this time but will be available for consultation. Susan would also like to continue.

**3) 2019A application**

- a) Appraisal is in progress.

**4) Updates**

- a) Line item amount - the line item request for \$65,000 was approved by the Selectboard as part of Item 4 for the voters.
- b) Covid assistance progress - ARPA
  - i) Our proposal to use ARPA funds for a mapping of habitat connectivity and other natural resources in Monkton might not be eligible for ARPA funds, but the state has climate resilience funding in the current budget.
- c) Check with TNC-posting & blocking off area for denning season at Raven Ridge.
  - i) Susan will follow up on that this season
- d) Farm list
  - i) Will mention it at the Town Meeting informational session and publish it on the ANAC page or town site
- e) Town Forest progress - pursuing ARPA funding as an option
- f) Document storage space
  - i) Jaime will reach out to Steve Pilcher about access for additional committee members and we will have a training session for Google Drive during an upcoming meeting.
- g) Chris Ajello (Field Naturalist) - will join us in March to present on his project
- h) Resource inventory - covered above under ARPA

**5) 2021 ANAC planning for Town Meeting discussion**

- a) ANA Fund line item request - be clear on how the queue of upcoming projects supports the request.
- b) Need to be able to move quickly if a project arises, so it is important to have a balance in the fund. These are happening more quickly due to the increased development pressure.
- c) What is the importance to the town of conserving forest and natural areas? Character of the town is not just agricultural, but also other working landscapes and natural areas. Forest, mountains, wetlands, etc. Climate resilience, water quality, etc., is improved by maintaining these kinds of undeveloped land. Monkton is regionally significant for wildlife habitat connectivity and contributes to downstream water quality.

**6) Town Meeting Planning**

- a) There will be a portion of the meeting for other topics. Discussed questions we could pose for the town to consider.

**7) Planning Commission recommendations short file**

- a) Reviewed and made some edits. Will continue work during our next meeting.

**8) Other business - none at this time**

**9) Confirm date(s) and locations/zoom**

- a) Tuesday, 15th February 2022, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- b) Tuesday, 8th March 2022, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- c) Tuesday, 12th April 2022, 6:30pm-8:30pm

**10) Reviewed Minutes**

**Adjournment**

Susan moved to adjourn. Sam seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 8:35pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Jaime Schulte**  
Clerk